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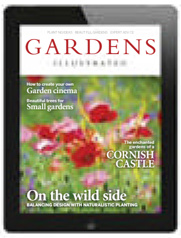
editor's letter

My first proper grown-up job was at the British Film Institute in London. I thoroughly enjoyed the ten years I spent there working on various publications, and it was always such a treat to go to press screenings held in tiny preview cinemas secreted away in Soho. Although I swapped cinema for horticulture many years ago, I still have a keen interest in film and find the idea of setting up a little cinema in the garden really thrilling. Writer Rosanna Morris explains the dos and don'ts in our feature on page 78. This month we also have an eclectic mix of gardens: from an urban plot designed for sustainable living, to the wildly romantic Cornish garden of designers Isabel and Julian Bannerman. Learning about the best plants and how to use them is a vital part of *Gardens Illustrated*. Hans Kramer, renowned as one of the best nurserymen in Europe, reveals ten of his favourite plants for July; and designer and plant expert Noël Kingsbury discusses the most worthwhile late-flowering clematis. In her new Design Ideas series, Sarah Price looks at how the right tree can transform a small garden, while head gardener Matthew Reese conjures up some wonderful ideas for container planting. Gardens – rather like films – are about aesthetics, narrative and clever juxtapositions. They are places in which you can escape and dream, but most of all they should give you pleasure. So alongside all the work needed to keep your garden looking lovely, I hope you seize an opportunity to sit back and enjoy it all, and perhaps even watch your favourite film by moonlight.

Juliet



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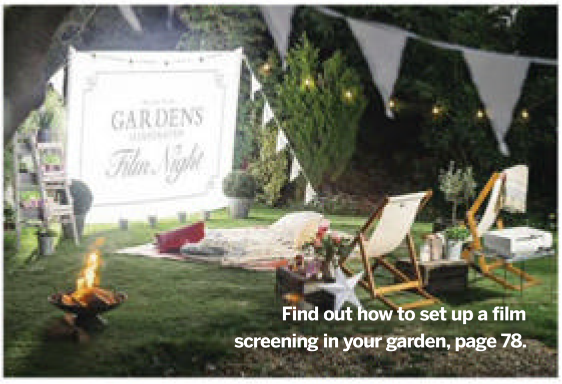
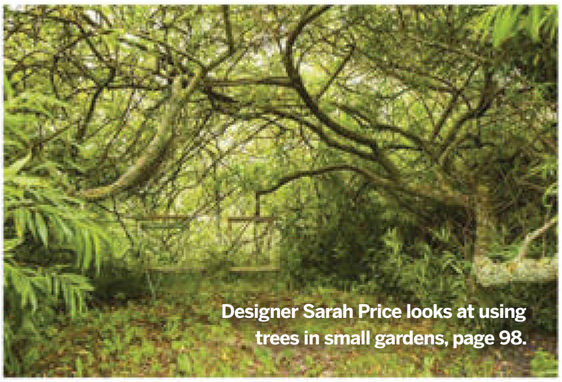


Find out how to set up a film screening in your garden, page 78.

Noël Kingsbury selects the best late-flowering clematis, page 62.



Designer Sarah Price looks at using trees in small gardens, page 98.

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Garden designer, plantsman and columnist.

SEAN MALYON, RACHEL WARNE, SARAH PRICE

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Sweet clover and poppies
Photography by
Clive Nichols / GAP Photos

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MARIANNNE MAJERUS, ANDREW MONTGOMERY

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CLAIRE TAKACS, ANDRÉ REUTER

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- Save money when you **subscribe to the digital edition** – see page 32
- Visit Bergamo in Italy for the **International Meeting of the Landscape and Garden** supported by *Gardens Illustrated* – see page 96

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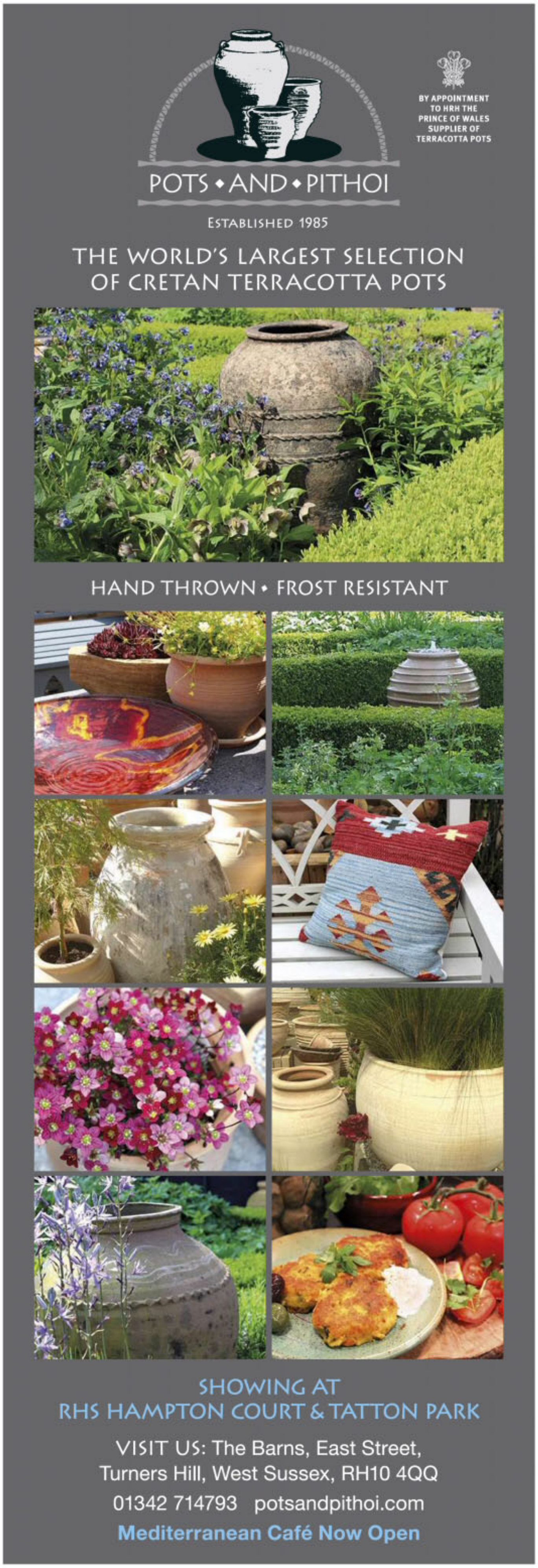

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contributors

MARK DIACONO

Food and garden writer Mark, runs Otter Farm in Devon where he grows the most delicious produce he can think of. This issue he's both reviewed a book on weather, see page 110, and has contributed to one of our reviewed books on growing veg, see page 107.

"Taking the photographs for My Tiny Veg Plot *was quite a privilege for a nosy so-and-so who's fascinated by what people grow."*

GEORGE WRIGHT

ANNA PAVORD

Anna has been the gardening correspondent of *The Independent* since the paper was founded in 1986, and is the author of numerous books, including *The Tulip*. On page 54 she visits the magical garden created by Isabel and Julian Bannerman at Trematon Castle.

"I'm a tremendous fan of the Bannermans and was delighted to see what delights they have been conjuring up at Trematon."

SEAN MALYON

LIAM McAULEY

Our new designer Liam's childhood was informed by time spent in the family garden in rural Wiltshire. His affinity with nature and landscapes informs much of his work as a designer and illustrator. Now based in Bristol, he's the latest addition to our art team.

"Working on the outdoor cinema shoot gave me a great insight into the stylistic subtleties that go into an idyllic lifestyle shot."

SEAN MALYON

ALYS HURN

Brought up in the heart of the Brecon Beacons, Alys is an English graduate, who's joined us as editorial assistant. Although missing her rural roots, she's finding that Bristol's bright lights are fuelling her sense of adventure and passion for creative writing.

"My favourite feature this month is Trematon Castle. I love its rustic glamour, and the views from the grounds look incredible."

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USA/CANADA *Gardens Illustrated*, PO BOX 37495, Boone, IA 50037-0495 USA.

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✉ *Gardens Illustrated*, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.

SYNDICATION & LICENSING

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Standard subscription rates: UK £58.50 per annum; Eire and Europe £54.10 for 13 issues; rest of the world £64.95 for 13 issues. Distribution Frontline, Peterborough. US distribution Source IPD/Speedimpex. Email intlquery@seymour.co.uk Printed in the UK by William Gibbons Ltd. *Gardens Illustrated* (ISSN 0968-8920) (USPS 015-608) is published 13 times a year (monthly with a Special issue in December) by Immediate Media Company Bristol, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax St, Bristol BS1 3BN, UK. Distributed in the US by Circulation Specialists, LLC, 2 Corporate Drive, Ste. 945, Shelton, CT 06484. Periodical postage paid at Shelton, CT and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Gardens Illustrated*, PO Box 37495, Boone, IA 50037-0495. Unsolicited manuscripts, artwork or transparencies are accepted on the understanding that the publishers incur no liability for their storage or return.

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Daniel Auderset
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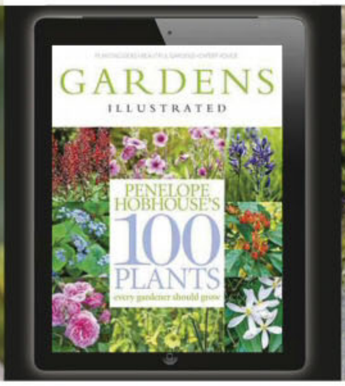
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Saturday 19 September 2015

A day at Gravetye Manor

The garden's past, present and future

Join us at the Sussex home of pioneering Victorian gardener William Robinson where you'll learn about Gravetye's prominent past and its continuing influence

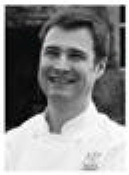
In terms of England's gardening heritage, Gravetye Manor is key. Tucked deep in the Sussex countryside, Gravetye's most notable past owner was William Robinson who bought the property in 1884. It was here that Robinson put into practice his ideas for a more naturalistic approach to gardening – despite them being controversial at the time.

Your day will begin with head gardener Tom Coward talking about William Robinson and his gardening legacy. He will be joined by the chef George Blogg who will discuss how the renovated, two-acre kitchen garden plays a key role in the success of the hotel's award-winning kitchen. You'll then enjoy a champagne reception and a delicious three-course lunch, cooked using ingredients fresh from the garden. After lunch you'll be given a guided tour of the gardens to consider Robinson's ideas in practice and see how the gardens are developing for the 21st century. Your day finishes on the terrace for a cup of tea and slice of cake.

For more details about Gravetye Manor please visit **gravetyemanor.co.uk**

THE SPEAKERS

Tom Coward worked at Great Dixter before becoming head gardener at Gravetye. His focus is to conserve Robinson's work while progressing the garden in a continued spirit of experimentation.



Chef George Blogg came to Gravetye in 2014. His cooking style reflects his upbringing in Dorset and he likes to combine classical techniques with locally sourced and foraged ingredients.

TO BOOK

ONLINE **gardensillustrated.com/events**

OR CALL UK 0871 230 7156†

† Calls to this number from a BT landline will cost 10p per minute. Calls from mobiles and other providers may vary. Overseas readers should call +44 (0)115 896 0368.

Event details

- **Date** Saturday 19 September 2015.
- **Venue** Gravetye Manor, Vowels Lane, West Hoathly, Sussex RH19 4LJ.

PROGRAMME

- **10.30am** Arrival and coffee.
- **11am** Talk with head gardener Tom Coward and chef George Blogg.
- **12.30pm** Taittinger champagne reception followed by lunch.
- **2.30pm** Garden tour.
- **4pm** Tea and cake on the terrace.

TICKETS

- Tickets cost £110 per person, including giftbag for gardeners, worth £20. Tickets and directions will be sent out prior to the event. Booking essential. Please advise us of any dietary requirements or accessibility queries.
- Gravetye Manor is offering readers the opportunity to stay overnight before or after the event at a special price of £205 per room per night for a classic double. To book call the hotel on 01342 810567 and quote *Gardens Illustrated*.

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Dig in

What's happening, where to go, what's in flower and what to buy this month

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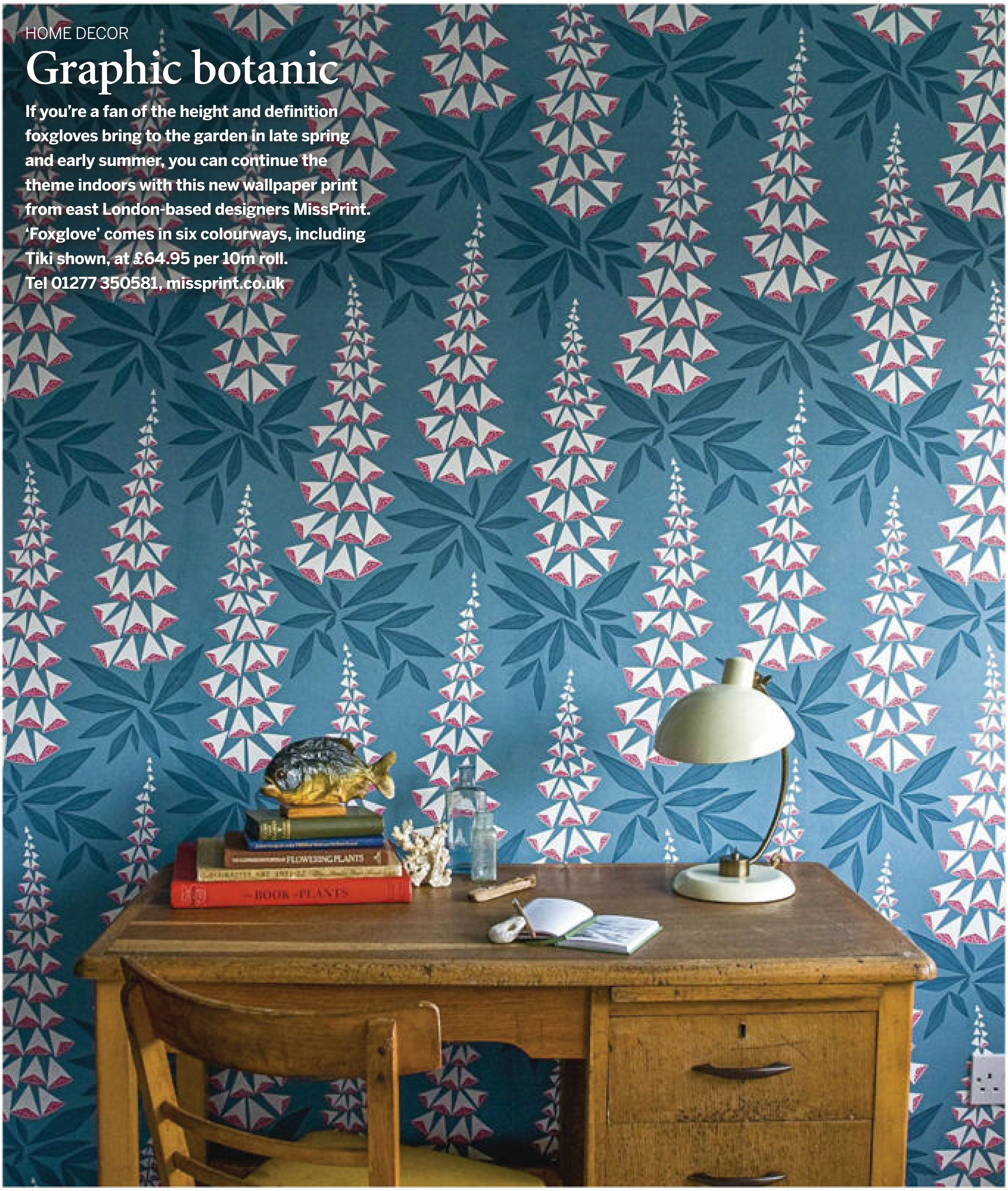


HOME DECOR

Graphic botanic

If you're a fan of the height and definition foxgloves bring to the garden in late spring and early summer, you can continue the theme indoors with this new wallpaper print from east London-based designers MissPrint. 'Foxglove' comes in six colourways, including Tiki shown, at £64.95 per 10m roll. Tel 01277 350581, missprint.co.uk

SOPHIE DRURY

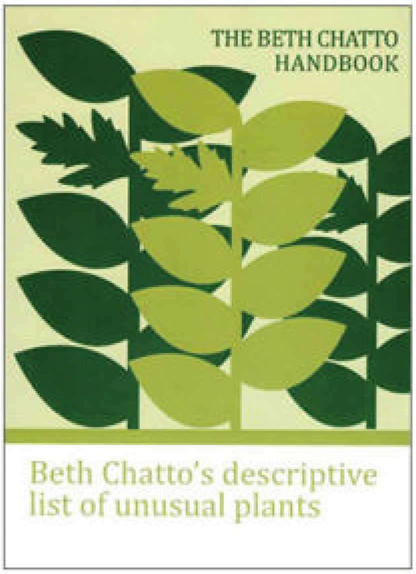
GARDEN SHOW

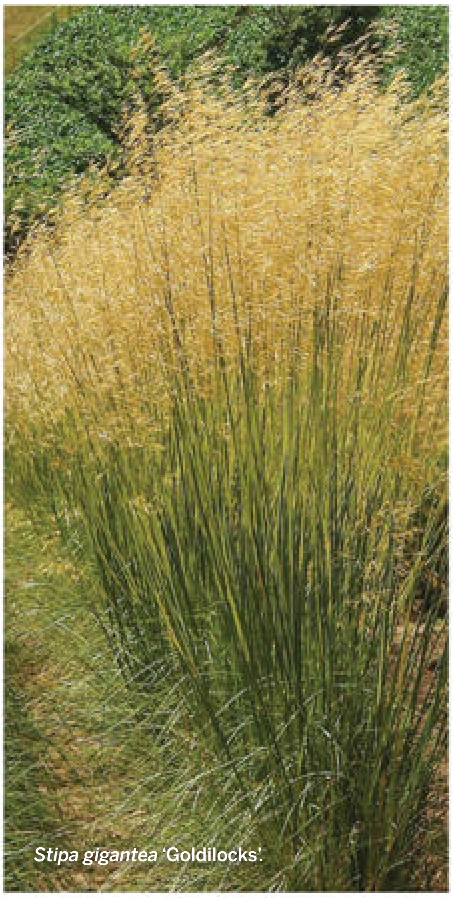
Hampton Court Palace Flower Show celebrates

This year the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show marks its 25th anniversary. Along with the 34 gardens vying for a medal, this year's show will include celebratory features, such as a new maze made up of 300m of *Cornus mas* hedging that will link to the Palace's famous maze. In the floral marquee you'll find seven nurseries that have exhibited at every show since the start: Blackmore & Langdons, The Botanic Nursery, Fibrex Nurseries, Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants, Squire's Garden Centre, Southfield Nurseries and WS Warmenhoven. 30 June – 5 July. **rhs.org.uk/shows-events**

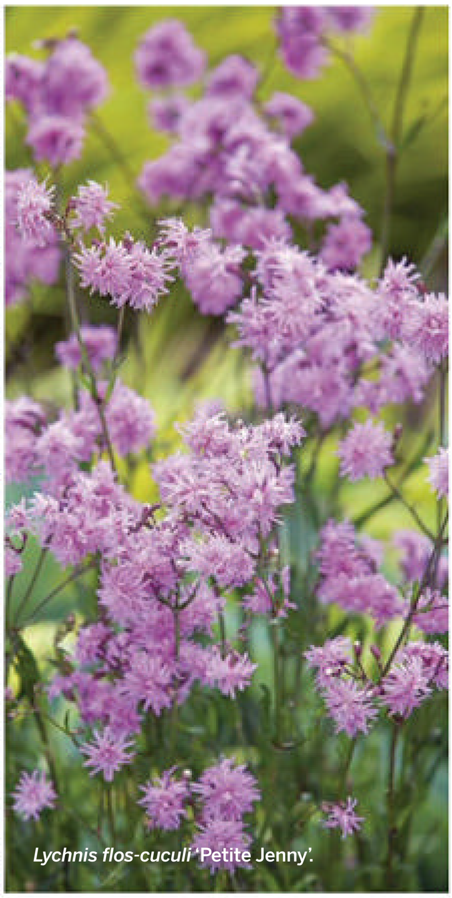
INSPIRING READ

When nurserywoman Beth Chatto wrote her Descriptive List of Unusual Plants *in the mid 1970s, it quickly became* the *guide to the right plant/ right place principle of planting. Now there's a revised and updated version of the guide. Not only is it a good read, it's an invaluable guide to plant communities and how to put together a planting plan. £9.95; available from the shop at Beth Chatto Gardens, Essex, or bethchatto.co.uk*





Stipa gigantea 'Goldilocks'.



Lychnis flos-cuculi 'Petite Jenny'.

NEW PLANTS

A grassy, naturalised appeal

Grass specialist Knoll Gardens has a new stipa that is perfect for smaller spaces and mingled plantings. *Stipa gigantea* 'Goldilocks' is more compact than other forms of Spanish oat grass. It still has the large, golden, oat-like panicles, but these are held on shorter stems, typically reaching 1.5-1.8m. £10.95 for a 2-litre pot. **Tel 01202 873931, knollgardens.co.uk.**

Also new for 2015 is this pretty *Lychnis flos-cuculi* 'Petite Jenny' developed by Blooms of Bressingham. Ragged robins work well in more naturalised plantings and this cultivar has masses of double-flowered, soft lavender-pink blooms from early summer into autumn. For a list of stockists go to **bloomsofbressinghamplants.com**

TIM WHITBY/GETTY IMAGES EUROPE

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Chenies, Buckinghamshire WD3 6EP (M25 – Ext 18 – A404 towards Amersham)

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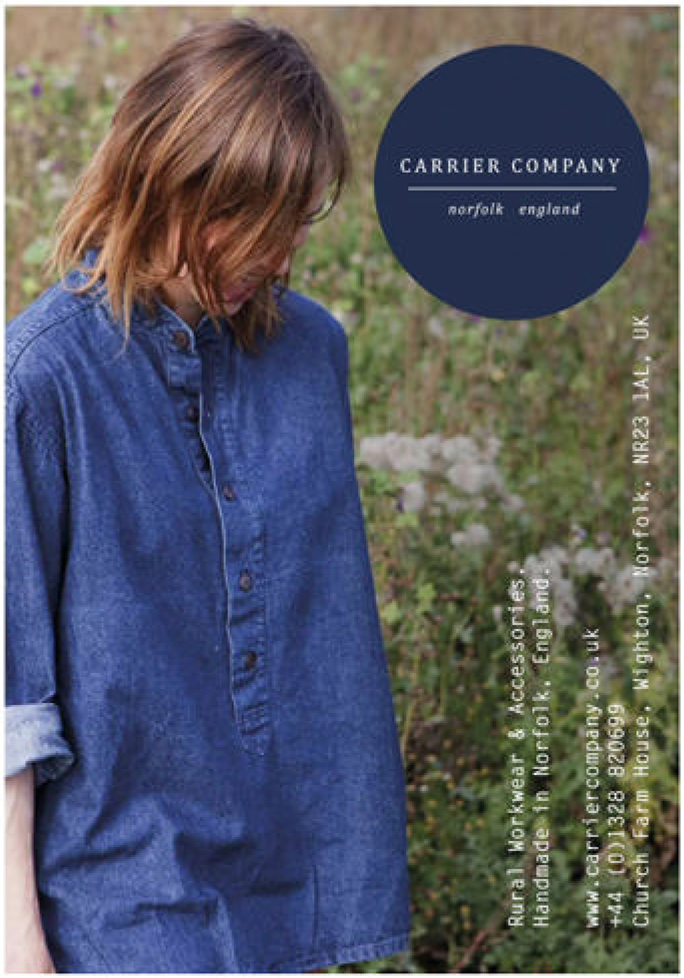

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Diary

Enjoy summer in the garden with activities and events

Goldney Hall, part of Bristol University.

- **Painting trees in summer**

One-day course with local artist John Wiltshire, painting trees 'en plein air'. 14 July, 10am-4pm. £50. Cambridge University Botanic Garden, 1 Brookside, Cambridge CB2 1JE. Tel 01223 331875, www.botanic.cam.ac.uk

- **Goldney Hall garden tour**

View the ornate 18th-century town gardens created by wealthy merchant Thomas Goldney. 19 July, 10.30am-12 noon. £10. Booking essential. Goldney Hall, Lower Clifton Hill, Bristol BS8 1BH. Tel 0117 331 4901, bristol.ac.uk

- **Ancient trees talk**

Ethnobotanist Anna Lewington and photographer, Ed Parker discuss the cultural importance of ancient trees. 21 July, 6-8pm. £15. Chelsea Physic Garden, 66 Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HS. Tel 020 7352 5646, chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk

- **Willow weaving**

Further your willow-weaving techniques and create a sheep, guided by willow artist Alison Walling. 21 July, 10am-4pm. £95. Doddington Hall, Doddington, Lincolnshire LN6 4RU. Tel 07758 730462, doddingtonhall.com

- **The Garden Show**

Loseley Park's Garden Show will feature specialist nurseries, garden sundries and the opportunity to explore the gardens. 24-26 July, 10am-5pm. £7. Loseley Park, Guilford, Surrey GU3 1HS. Tel 01243 538456, loseleypark.co.uk

- **Guided walk**

Enjoy alliums, lavender, dahlias and roses in a guided summer garden walk at Dyffryn Fernant garden. 24 July, 5pm. £12. Dyffryn Fernant, nr Fishguard, Pembrokeshire SA65 9SP. Tel 01348 811282, dyffrynfernant.co.uk

- **Herb Day**

Tour Falkland Palace's new 'Physic Garden' and discover herbs traditionally grown in the time of Mary Queen of Scots. Demonstrations by local chefs and craft workers. 26 July, 12 noon-4.30pm. Falkland Palace and Garden, Falkland, Cupar, Scotland KY15 7BU. Tel 01337 857397, nts.org.uk

- **Kitchen Garden tour**

Kew gardener Joe Archer, who featured on the recent BBC TV series *Kew on a Plate*, leads tours of the kitchen garden. Every Friday until 24 July, 2.30pm. Free with entry. Kew Gardens, Surrey TW9 3AB. Tel 020 8332 5655, kew.org

ANDREW BUTLER / NATIONAL TRUST IMAGES

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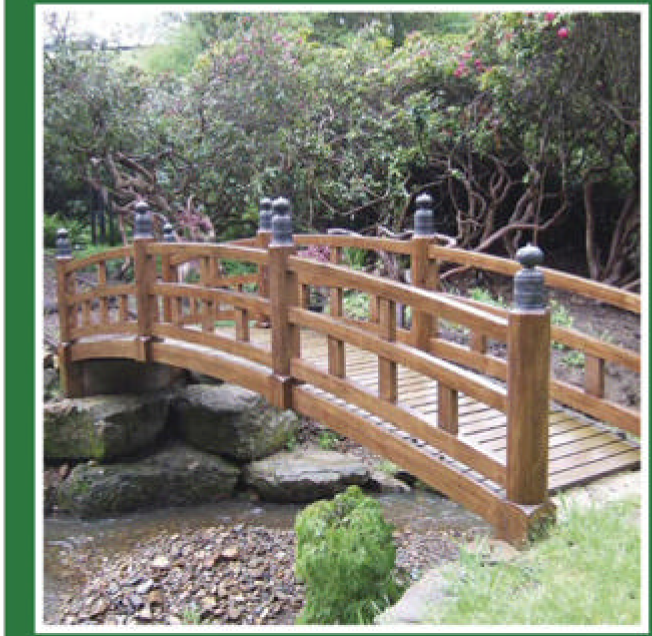

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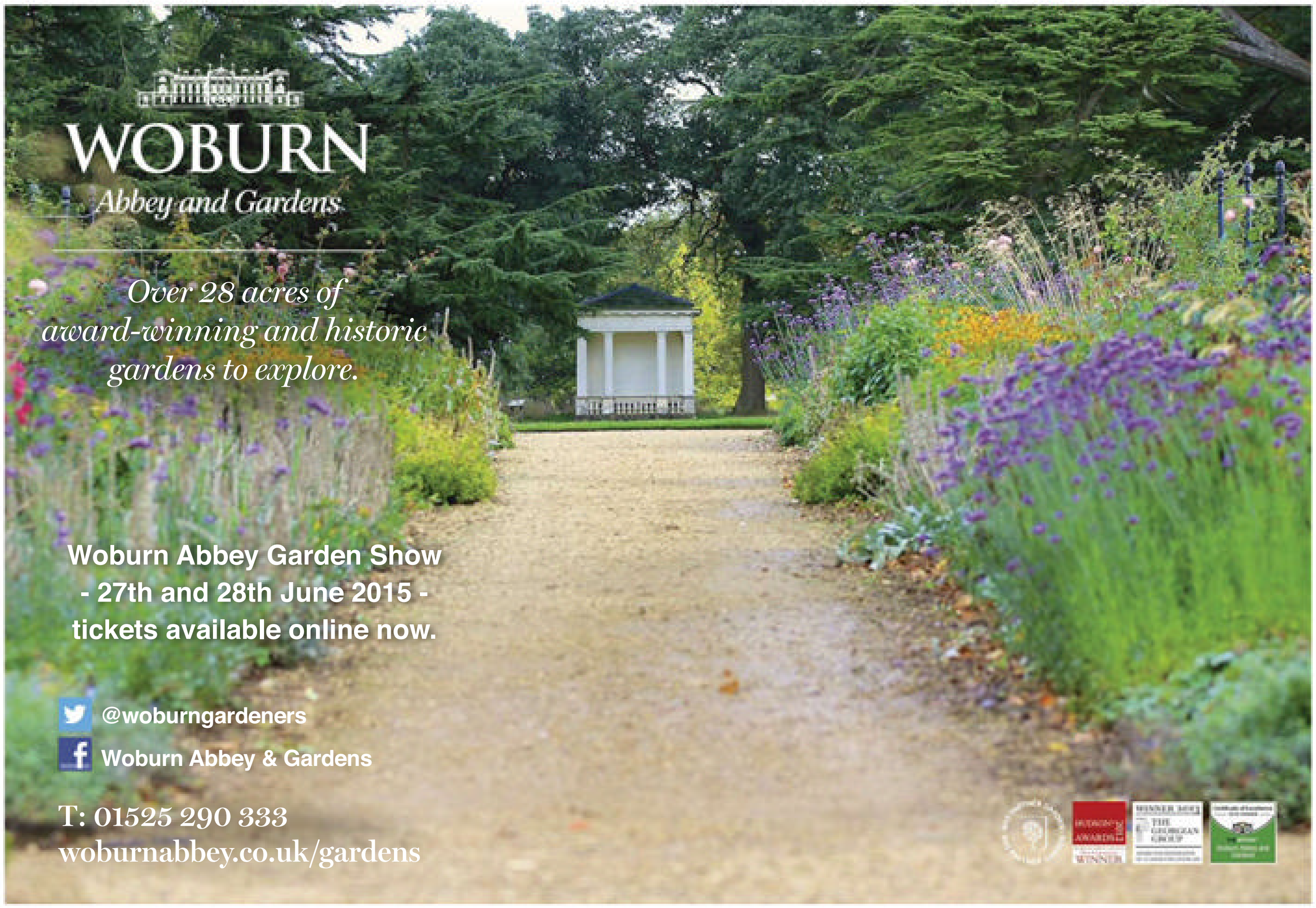

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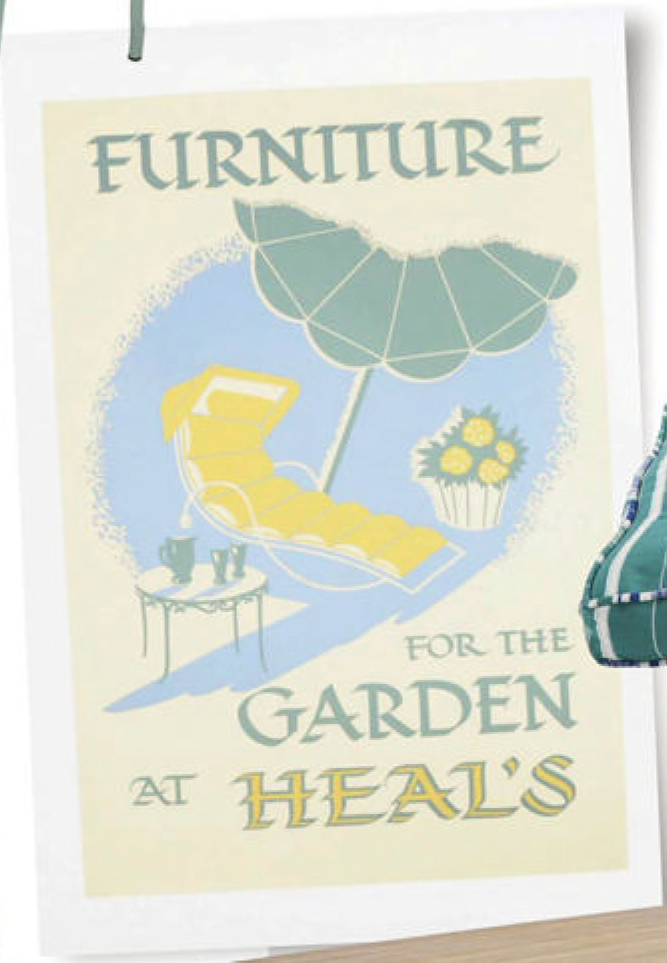

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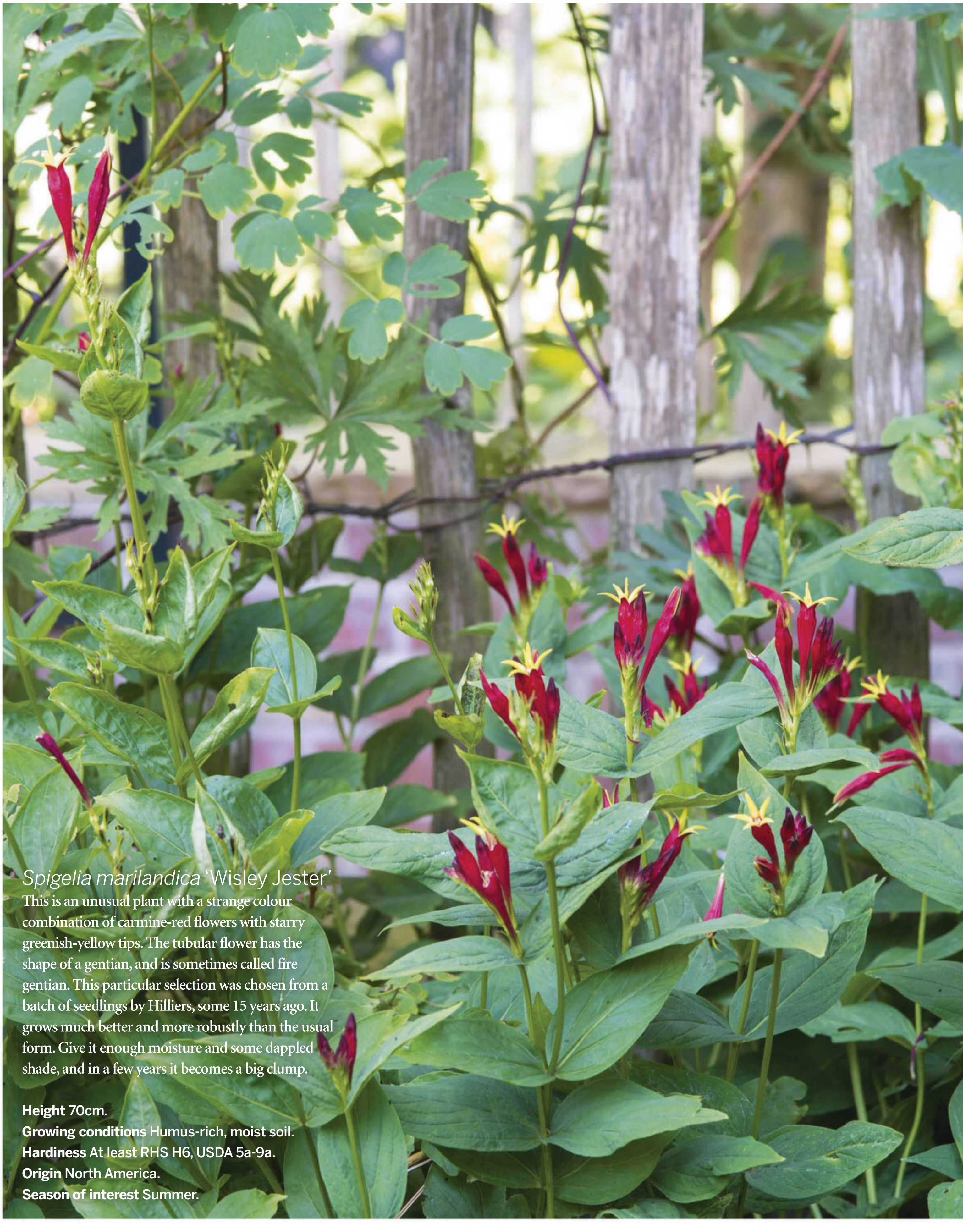
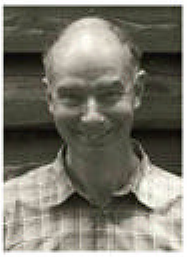


Spigelia marilandica 'Wisley Jester'

This is an unusual plant with a strange colour combination of carmine-red flowers with starry greenish-yellow tips. The tubular flower has the shape of a gentian, and is sometimes called fire gentian. This particular selection was chosen from a batch of seedlings by Hilliers, some 15 years ago. It grows much better and more robustly than the usual form. Give it enough moisture and some dappled shade, and in a few years it becomes a big clump.

Height 70cm.
Growing conditions Humus-rich, moist soil.
Hardiness At least RHS H6, USDA 5a-9a.
Origin North America.
Season of interest Summer.



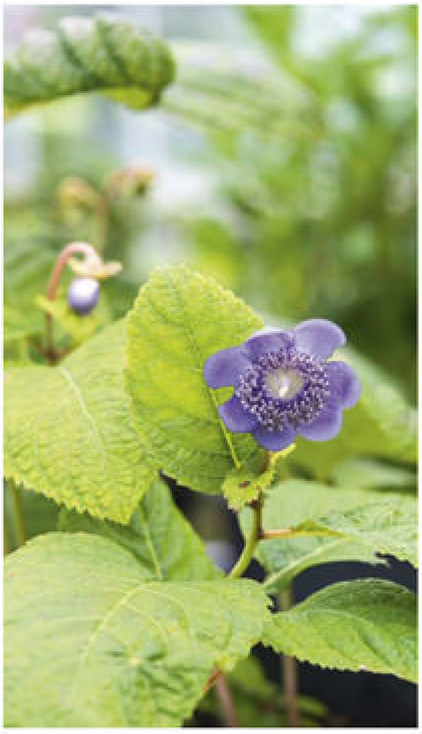
CHARLIE HOPKINSON

July plants

As summer reaches its peak, nurseryman Hans Kramer selects his favourites for providing colour in July

WORDS **HANS KRAMER** PHOTOGRAPHS **MAAYKE DE RIDDER**

Hans Kramer co-owns De Hessenhof nursery in the Netherlands. hessenhof.nl



Deinanthe caerulea

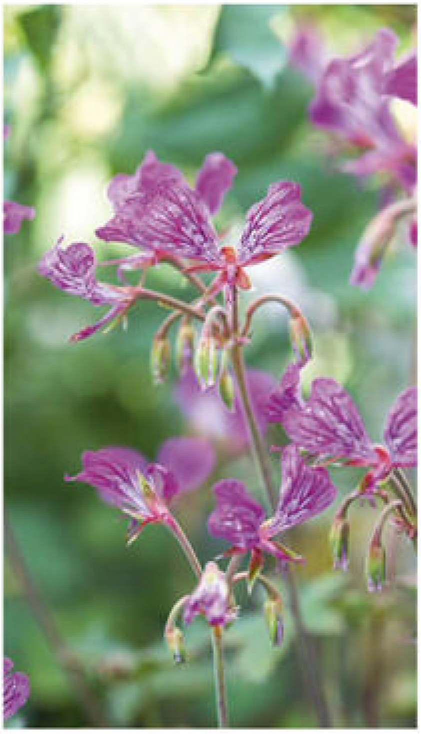
This flower is an absolute jewel. In the trade you will find a much paler coloured form under this name, which in most cases is a hybrid between *D. caerulea* and the other species, *D. bifida*. This should be called 'Blue Wonder'. The real *D. caerulea* has dark-red flowering stems, which end in a dreamlike flower of utmost beauty: lilac blue with masses of lavender stamens inside. You might notice the resemblance to the ray florets of a hydrangea; it is a family member. We propagate it from seed and now we have a few very dark coloured forms, which we are going to propagate by cuttings.

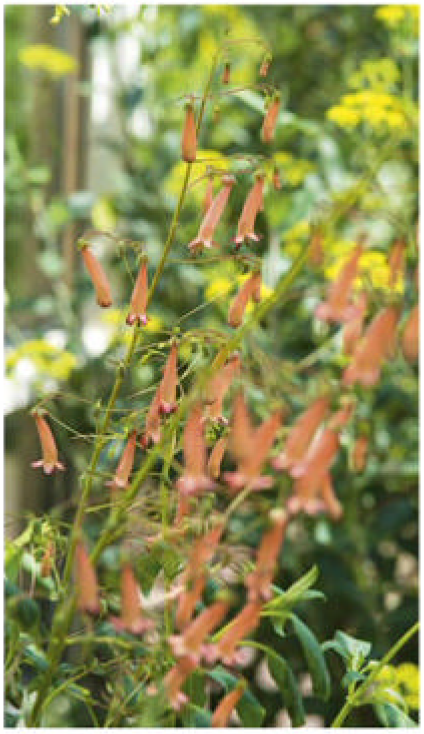
Height 35cm.
Growing conditions Humus-rich, moist soil.
Hardiness RHS H6, USDA 4a-9b.
Origin China.
Season of interest Summer.

Pelargonium endlicherianum

This is an unusual plant – a hardy pelargonium. The seeds came from Turkey, where the plant grows in the wild, and they germinated readily. I kept some seedlings in a pot in the greenhouse, just in case, and the rest I planted in the rock garden. There they thrive, showing their magenta-red petals with deeper red veins. A cold winter is not a problem, but a wet winter can be, so be sure to plant it in well-drained soil in full sun. It is perhaps easier to grow in a pot, where it makes a pretty flower on the terrace table.

Height 30cm.
Growing conditions Full sun, dry soil, sheltered position.
Hardiness RHS H5, USDA 4a-8b.
Origin Turkey.
Season of interest Summer.





Phygelius x rectus 'Jodie Southon'

I like the flowers of this cultivar – long tubular trumpets in a soft apricot-orange colour, yellow on the inside. Here in the Netherlands they don't behave as shrubs, dying to the ground every winter, but they are astonishingly hardy. Two years ago, when temperatures fell to -20°C the plant came back and flowered profusely, starting at the end of June. Many cultivars have a stoloniferous habit, which is sometimes annoying, but this cultivar stays fairly compact. We grow it in a flower box against our barn, a constant amid the annuals.

Height 80cm.
Growing conditions Sun, part shade.
Hardiness RHS H5.
Origin South Africa.
Season of interest Summer – autumn.

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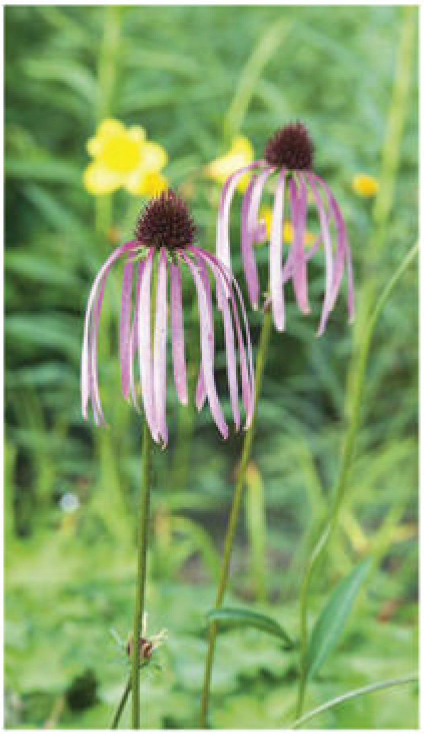
†Hardiness ratings given where available.



Echinacea pallida var. *sanguinea*

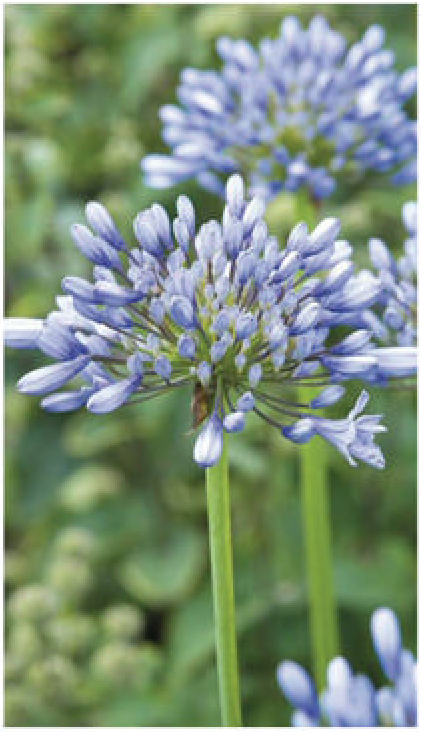
With so many hybrids and cultivars being sold, it is good to find a plant that is seldom cultivated. Despite the fact that this is the most southerly growing echinacea in the USA, it is perfectly hardy and, more than that, very long lived. In our sandy soil the tap root goes down more than 50cm deep. The long, strap-like drooping petals curl under a bit, giving it a natural charm. Perhaps this is the most delicate looking echinacea. It is close to the better-known species plant, *E. pallida*, but this one is definitely the better choice.

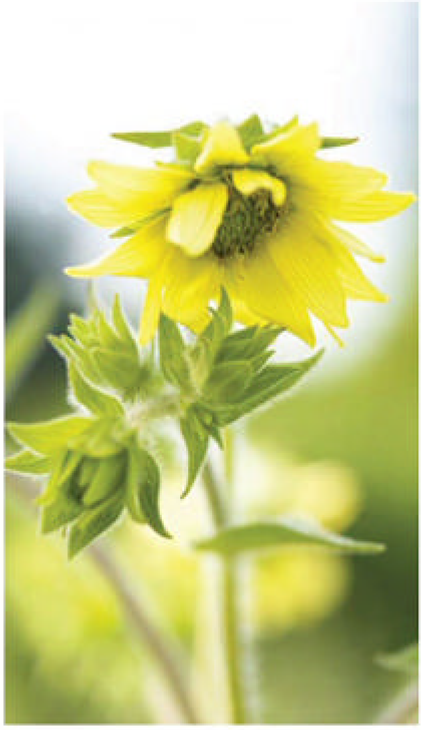
Height 70cm.
Growing conditions Full sun; fertile soil.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 7a-9b.
Origin USA.
Season of interest Summer.

Agapanthus 'Rotterdam'

There is a whole range of agapanthus cultivars with city names, all grown by amateur breeder Kees van Duivenvoorde. It is really difficult to choose between them, because they are all good. It seems that most customers prefer the really dark colours, but I like 'Rotterdam'. This cultivar has almost luminous light-blue flowers with a darker midvein, arranged in large, spherical heads. These work really well in the garden because you can see them from a great distance. Whether you plant them in a pot or grow them in the open ground, this is a totally reliable flowering agapanthus.

Height 80cm.
Growing conditions Full sun; fertile soil.
Hardiness RHS H6.
Origin South Africa.
Season of interest Summer.





Silphium mohrii

With so many yellow composites flowering in summer and autumn, do we need another one? Certainly yes, because this is a real discovery – I find it incomprehensible that this noble plant was not discovered for our gardens earlier. The big, bristly, lance-shaped foliage, although handsome, doesn't give away the beauty of the plant, but as soon as the first large, disc flowers open, everybody starts to ask about it. The flowers are up to 8cm across in a beautiful lemon-yellow colour. The show goes on until the first frost. It is also the smallest silphium we grow here in the nursery.

Height 1.3m.
Growing conditions Sun; best in poor soil.
Hardiness RHS H7.
Origin North America.
Season of interest Summer – autumn.

Places to visit

Recommended places to see seasonal plants at their best, both here in the UK and in mainland Europe.

One of the most important gardens in the Netherlands, the **Mien Ruys Gardens** are the lifetime's work of Mien Ruys, the doyenne of Dutch garden architects. It includes more than 30 inspirational gardens, which give a chronological overview of 20th-century garden architecture and illustrate the different periods of Ruys's experiments in design, planting and materials. Mein Ruys Gardens, Moerheimstraat 84, 7701CG, Dedemsvaart, the Netherlands. Tel +31 (0) 523 614774, tuinenmienruys.nl

Mien Ruys Gardens.
CLAIRE TAKACS

In July, **Forde Abbey** celebrates a sweet pea fortnight within the walled Victorian kitchen garden, with over 60 varieties on show. You can also pick your own fruit from mid-June, including strawberries,

Triosteum himalayanum

We call this the 'perennial honeysuckle' at the nursery to help sell this wonderful woodlander – many people have never heard of *Triosteum*. This is a real pity because the red berries in the middle of the summer are very special, and they look very similar to those of *Lonicera*. It all starts in the spring, with strong shoots bearing big, hairy, clasping leaves. Before you know it, it has already flowered – they are so small that you hardly notice them. There's also a white-berried species. The two have hybridised, so we have now plants with pink fruits.

Height 60cm.
Growing conditions Semi-shade; humus-rich soil.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 4a.
Origin Himalayas.
Season of interest Summer.

Thalictrum yunnanense

When I first got this plant, I thought it was misnamed because in the spring the leaves look exactly like those of *Epimedium*. However, it did not take long to allay my doubts because it flowered in its first year, with nice, fluffy flowers like a real *Thalictrum*. It is, I believe, one of the best plant introductions of recent years. It flowers for more than three months, can stand more drought than other thalictrums and gently self-seeds. What more could you want? In my opinion, it's a far better plant than the closely related *T. kiusianum*.

Height 30cm.
Growing conditions Semi-shade; humus-rich soil.
Hardiness RHS H7.
Origin China.
Season of interest Summer – autumn.

Kniphofia ichopensis

Some people don't prize this red hot poker very highly, but I take no notice of what others think – you know yourself what you like when you grow it. This one has survived the series of very cold winters of recent years, when many varieties died. It does not grow very tall, about 50cm would be the maximum. The distinctive blue-green leaf rosettes are a promise of the flower spikes, which start a smoky coral-pink and age to an unusual green-yellow colour. The individual flowers are very long and tubular, giving the plant a pleasing frothy appearance.

Height 50cm.
Growing conditions Sun; most soils.
Hardiness RHS H6, USDA 5a-9a.
Origin South Africa.
Season of interest Early summer – summer.

gooseberries, raspberries and blackcurrants. Forde Abbey, Chard, Somerset TA20 4LU. Tel 01460 220231, fordeabbey.co.uk

The historic gardens of **Kelmarsh Hall** are listed Grade II* as a garden of national significance. Take a tour around the triangular walled garden to the cut-flower beds, which in July bloom with a varied collection of dahlias and a stunning selection of old roses. A chestnut avenue leads down to the lake, a perfect spot to take in the rolling countryside beyond. Kelmarsh Hall, Kelmarsh, Northamptonshire NN6 9LY. Tel 01604 686543, kelmarsh.com

With the Peak District as its backdrop, it is no wonder **Haddon Hall** is described as one of the most romantic houses in Britain. Award-winning garden designer Arne Maynard has created an Elizabethan-inspired knot garden at the rear and reintroduced traditional methods within the garden. The garden is Italianate in style but has a real country feel; roses, clematis and delphiniums adorn the stone buttresses. Haddon Hall, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 lLA. Tel 01629 812855, haddonhall.co.uk

Forde Abbey

CAROLE DRAKE/ GAP PHOTOS

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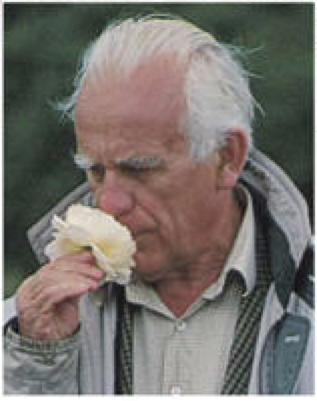

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In the garden

With crops of all kinds coming to fruition, Jojo battles with the warring demands of kitchen and garden – should she weed or make jelly?

WORDS **JOJO TULLOH** ILLUSTRATIONS **SARAH YOUNG**

It is with a hollow laugh that I greet the advice offered in some vegetable growing manuals to 'sit back and enjoy the fruits of my labours'. For me, a vegetable garden in July is like a river in full spate, the growth of weeds and crops both equally relentless. Courgettes and cucumbers never seem to stop coming, the dahlias, sunflowers and cosmos need picking or deadheading and pumpkins need feeding. Every corner of the plot seems to scream for attention, and that's even before you begin the process of turning produce into plenty. Your ability to stay afloat depends on how much work you have put in during the previous months.

In other years I have wasted many hot, summer hours hacking down overgrown paths and watering parched, under-mulched earth. This year I made myself put aside regular days in winter for laying down paths underlaid with weed-resistant fabric and covered in woodchip. To help lock moisture into the soil I spent mornings barrowing down manure to spread over bare earth. This preparation should leave me time to prepare a bed for winter salads – sown now, I hope it will see me through to spring (if planted any earlier many of these crops would have been plagued by flea beetles).

My mantra in July is hoe, weed, stake. Each time I set out for my allotment I make sure a ball of string and secateurs are in one of the pockets of my dungarees. Regular short visits to the allotment are the ideal I strive for in summer, but don't always achieve. Running my hoe along rows of beetroot and turnip is far more effective if done frequently. My favourite time to go is very early in the morning just as the poppies open. Even city air seems fresh at this hour. I cycle back past the queuing lines of commuter cars and arrive home just as everyone else is waking up. I set our breakfast table with a swag of sky-blue borage and eye-popping orange calendula, and a bowl of strawberries and redcurrants. It's a treat money can't buy.

Despite my best intentions, one thing I never seem to do in time is stake my tomatoes. The night before we departed for a holiday in Greece I was down on the plot late into the evening struggling to tie up floppy tomato plants and force sticks into the sun-baked ground. My friend's method of growing two metre-plus 'Alicante' tomato plants up a string suspended from a horizontal pole started to seem far more sensible. When we reached the island of Andros I admired one market gardener's unsightly but effective method of keeping the fruits off the ground – the straggling tomato plants were laid over upturned plastic vegetable crates. If you are growing tomatoes in pots be sure to keep them regularly watered to prevent blossom end rot (dark, sunken patches on the fruit).

WHAT TO SOW NOW

- With all this activity it's easy to forget about successional sowing. There is still time to sow extra rows of beetroot (the striped pink and white 'Chioggia' is essential), turnips, spinach, salad onions and fast-growing carrots.
- Now is the time to harvest garlic and main crop onions. I lay mine out on upturned wooden apple crates for a few days to dry out. I rub the dusty papery skins off the garlic and trim their roots, then tie them as skilfully as I can manage. The singular taste of fresh onions is another treat available only to those who grow their own. I take home several green onions to eat in sandwiches with cheese.
- Looking forward to winter, my salad bed includes rows of radicchio 'Rossa di Treviso' planted in late June and the soft buttery leaves of mache or lamb's lettuce, the succulent leaves of miner's lettuce, also called winter purslane, rows of mizuna and mibuna and the mustard 'Green-in-Snow'. This, along with self-seeding rocket, should provide me with many months of vivid green, peppery salad leaves.

In the kitchen

MODERN COOKERY
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BY
ELIZA ACTON

The currant is a real asset in any kitchen garden. They are heavy croppers, require low maintenance and the berries can be expensive to buy in any quantity. Most importantly, the flavour of jellies, tarts, jams, cordials and puddings made with currants is superb. I have four: two red and two black. They ripen over about a month and I usually throw a bit of black netting around the bushes to keep off the birds. I love the smell and rubbery feel of blackcurrant berries when picking in hot sun, and the way a bowl of redcurrants gleam in candlelight. As the season is quite short I freeze lots. I use some to make the Swedish dish, *Rårörda röda vinbär* (raw moved red currants). It's an uncooked dish, very simple to prepare, requiring only sugar and a little muscle: take 200g of redcurrants washed and picked clean of the stalks. Add 85g of sugar and stir. Leave for three or four hours until the sugar has dissolved, stirring once or twice. Decant into a clip-top jar and store in the fridge (use within a week). You can use it in crêpes or cakes, on your muesli or alongside meat.

> Eliza Acton was our first truly modern cookery writer. Her book *Modern Cookery for Private Families* was the first aimed at the totally inexperienced cook

Eliza Acton (1799-1859) was our first truly modern cookery writer. Her book *Modern Cookery for Private Families* (first published in 1845) was the first aimed at the totally inexperienced cook, and her inclusion of accurate quantities and cooking times was innovative. Hugely successful and influential in its day and much plagiarised (step forward Mrs Beeton), it still holds appeal today thanks to Acton's clear prose (she first published as a poet) and concise instructions. My favourite is the chapter on preserves, jam-packed with delights such as rhubarb, green gooseberry and greengage jams. The recipes are clearly the result of first-hand experience, evidenced by Acton's very pertinent 'Obs' (observations). Acton notes some readers found that her redcurrant jelly while 'of the finest flavour, is scarcely firm enough for the table'. It does have a rather runny set but don't let this deter you – it has ten times the flavour of commercially produced jellies.

Here is her Superlative Red Currant Jelly recipe. 'Strip carefully from the stems some quite ripe currants of the finest quality, and mix with an equal weight of good sugar reduced to powder; boil these together quickly for exactly eight minutes, keep them stirred all the time, and clear off the scum – which will be very abundant – as it rises; then turn the preserve into a very clean sieve, and put into small jars the jelly which runs through it, and which will be delicious in flavour, and of the brightest colour. It should be carried immediately, when this is practicable, to an extremely cool but not a damp place, and left there until perfectly cold. Currants: 3lbs, sugar 3lbs, 8 minutes.'

RECIPES

Globe artichokes

Now that the heads are larger and tougher, globe artichokes are best boiled and eaten leaf by leaf with a mustard vinaigrette or melted butter with a little lemon juice. Take a large stainless steel pan and add **2tbsp olive oil**, **1tbsp white wine vinegar**, **1 small glass of white wine**, **1tbsp fennel and coriander seeds** and **2 bay leaves**. Bring to the boil and put on the lid. Add 1 artichoke per person, stems trimmed. Cover with cold water and simmer for 30-40 minutes, drain upside down in a colander then eat while lukewarm with a vinaigrette made from olive oil, wine vinegar and Dijon mustard.

Baked courgette flowers

Courgette flowers fried in a thin, crisp batter are an annual summer ritual, but you can stuff and bake them instead. The basic filling is either ricotta or curd cheese flavoured with herbs and lemon zest (you could add chopped olives). For four people allow **3 flowers each**, take **300g soft cheese**, drain off any watery liquid then take **3tbsp finely grated parmesan**, the **zest of 1 lemon**, finely grated, **1tbsp olive oil**, **salt and pepper** and **6-8 basil leaves** (ideally lemon basil), chopped. Mix the filling then remove the stamens (careful not to tear the petals), spoon the filling in, and twist the ends of the flower together to hold the filling. Preheat oven to 180°C, arrange the flowers on a baking tray, zig zag over a little more oil, and bake for 6-8 minutes until the filling is warm but the flowers are still soft, not crisp.

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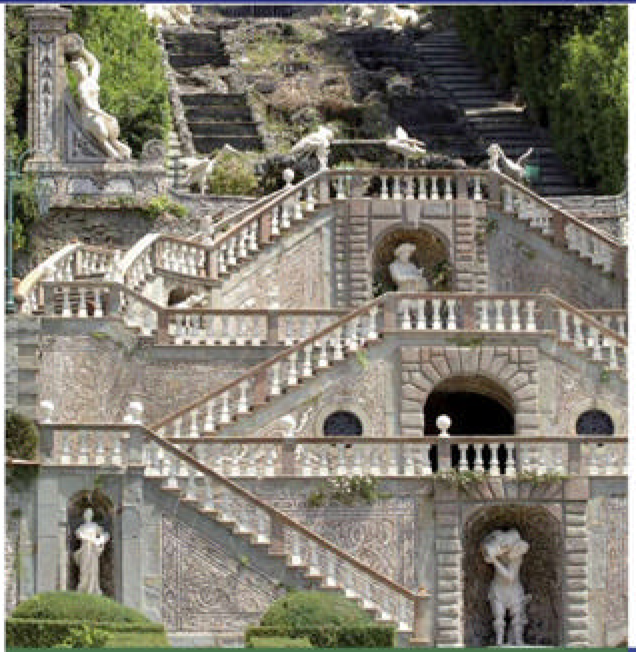

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Jessica Evans

A senior gardener with the National Trust at Tintinhull Gardens in Somerset, Jessica has also just been awarded Young Horticulturist of the Year

PORTRAIT ANDREW MONTGOMERY

First plant love *Epimedium*. It's the first plant genus I remember learning about during my first gardening job in Devon. *Epimedium wushanense nova* is a new favourite species after a recent visit one of the National Collection holders in Essex.

Horticultural heroes I was very inspired by Simon Pugh-Jones who is a science teacher at Writhlington School in Somerset and founded the Writhlington School Orchid Project. The benefit that this project has brought to the students who have been lucky enough to be involved is obvious when you meet them.

Three most worthwhile tips for every gardener Work with as many different people you can, as there is something to be learned from everyone. Keep visiting other gardens and nurseries for ideas you can steal and information about plants that may be new to you. Try to learn from people who are specialists in their fields, and then relate this to your own garden.

Favourite planting style I can appreciate any planting that is well executed and suited to its location. A tastefully designed and well-manicured herbaceous border in an Arts and Crafts garden can be equally as impressive as an exuberant planting of *Schefflera*, *Lophosoria*, filmy ferns and ridiculously exotic plants that evoke a temperate rainforest, well… almost.

Biggest challenge facing gardeners today There is a general lack of recognition for the professionalism and skills required within the industry. This perception affects everyone from the apprentice through to garden managers.

What principles have guided your attitude to gardening Always be willing to learn, don't be afraid to make mistakes and always work to the very highest standards.

If you had to leave your garden in a hurry, what one plant would you take with you I love the *Anemanthele lessoniana* that we are growing in the garden at the moment but that will undoubtedly change as the season progresses.

Favourite gardening book *Dear Friend and Gardener*, a collection of letters between Christopher Lloyd at Great Dixter and plantswoman Beth Chatto, is a beautiful book to read.

Contact Jessica.evans@nationaltrust.org.uk

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A must-have read for passionate gardeners, *Gardens Illustrated* magazine provides a unique insight into the world's most beautiful gardens, irresistible plants and clever design.

castle garden

In brief
Name Trematon Castle
Where Saltash, Cornwall.
Size Nine acres, which includes woodland and a double walled garden, yet to be restored.
Soil On the acid side of neutral, with some areas made relatively alkaline by the crumbling mortar of the ruins.
Climate Maritime, but with harsh gales and occasional damaging frosts in late winter. Annual rainfall 75-115cm.
Hardiness rating USDA 9.

Capturing the castle

When garden designers Isabel and Julian Bannerman acquired Trematon Castle in Cornwall they knew they wanted to create a romantic garden that would be truly in keeping with the castle's glorious past

WORDS ANNA PAVORD PHOTOGRAPHS CLAIRE TAKACS

Tall *Echium pininana* provide a dramatic focal point for the Tunnel Border, which also includes a mix of pink cistus, lavender and *Euphorbia characias* subsp. *wulfenii*, a signature plant at Trematon.

55

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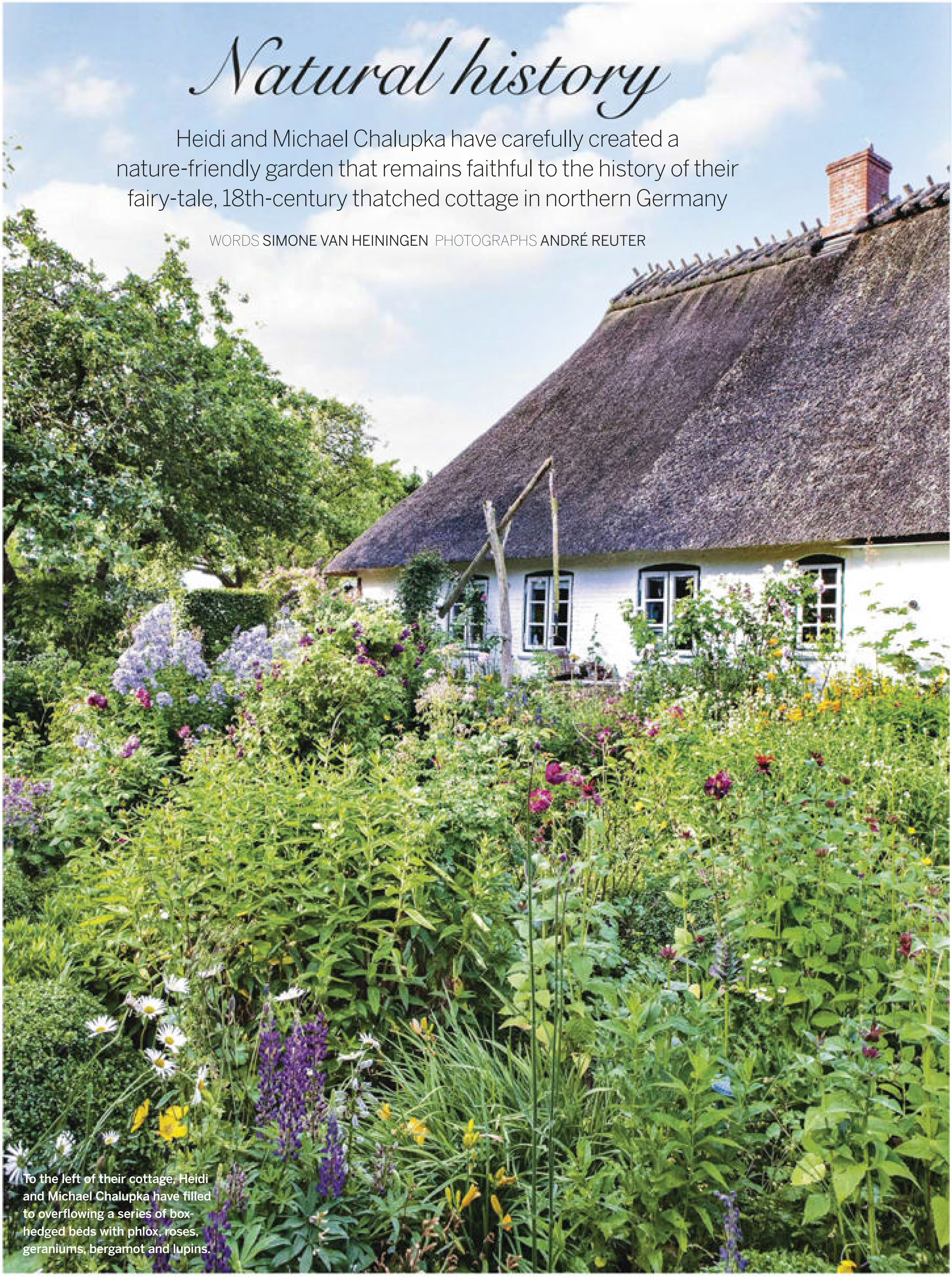
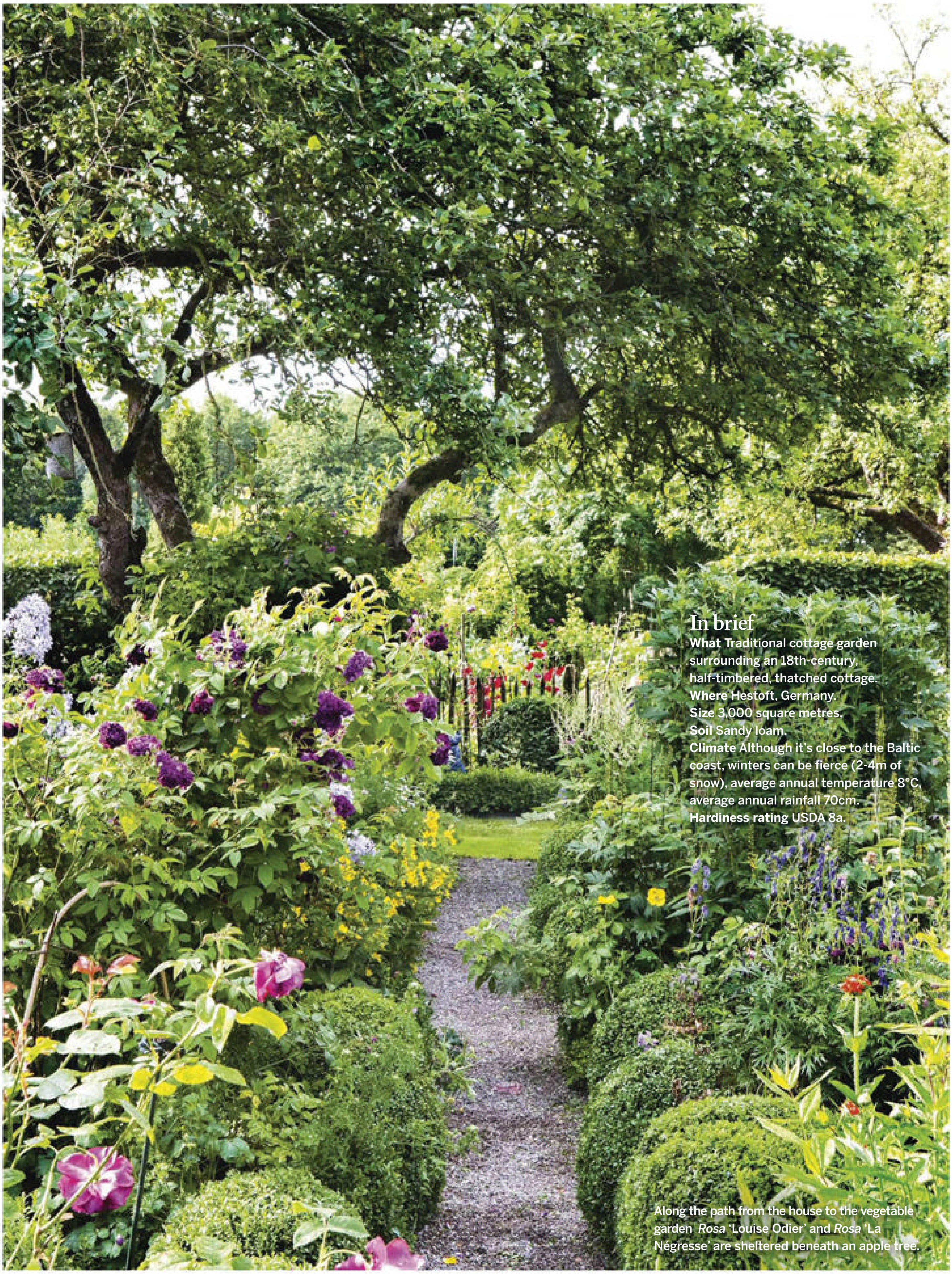
Natural history

Heidi and Michael Chalupka have carefully created a nature-friendly garden that remains faithful to the history of their fairy-tale, 18th-century thatched cottage in northern Germany

WORDS SIMONE VAN HEININGEN PHOTOGRAPHS ANDRÉ REUTER



To the left of their cottage, Heidi and Michael Chalupka have filled to overflowing a series of box-hedged beds with phlox, roses, geraniums, bergamot and lupins.



In brief

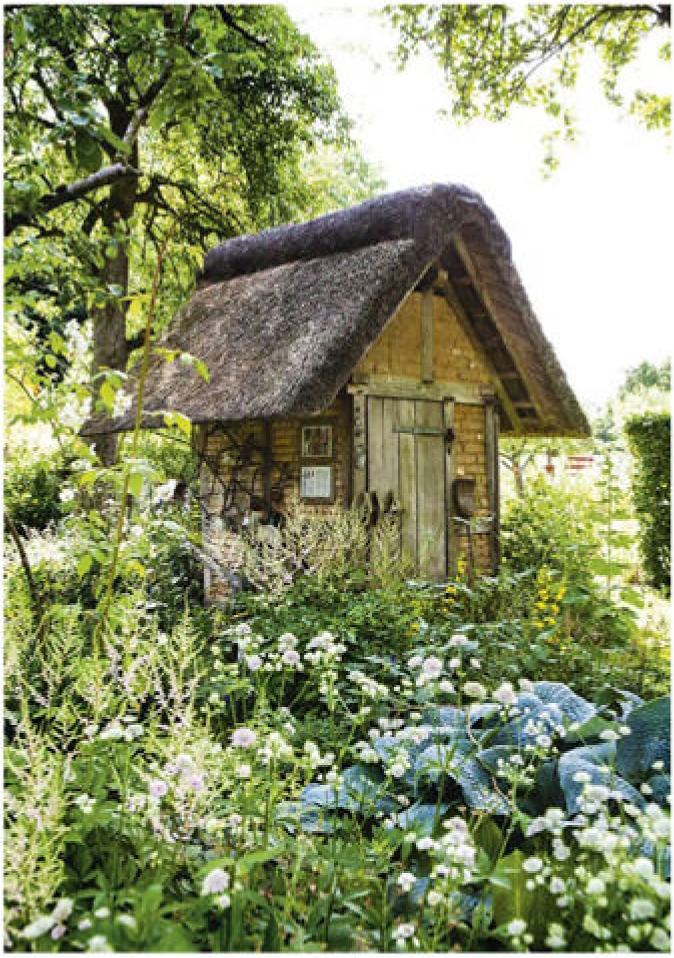
What Traditional cottage garden surrounding an 18th-century, half-timbered, thatched cottage.
Where Hestoft, Germany.
Size 3,000 square metres.
Soil Sandy loam.
Climate Although it's close to the Baltic coast, winters can be fierce (2-4m of snow), average annual temperature 8°C, average annual rainfall 70cm.
Hardiness rating USDA 8a.

Along the path from the house to the vegetable garden *Rosa* 'Louise Odier' and *Rosa* 'La Négresse' are sheltered beneath an apple tree.

A large *Fagus sylvatica* Atropurpurea Group stands guard by the gate to Heidi and Michael Chalupka's cottage. "If you move here, the villagers will give you a copper beech as a token you have been accepted," says Michael, adding "and yes, there are people who have lived here for years but are still waiting for their beech." Here is Hestoft, a hamlet on the Angeln peninsula of northern Germany. Its name – from the Danish *hest* meaning 'horse' and *toft* meaning 'fenced' – indicates its proximity to the Danish border, and its history as a disputed province. History is something that fascinates Heidi and Michael, as demonstrated by the meticulous, seven-year restoration of their 1756 half-timbered, thatched farmhouse and surrounding garden. It may look as though time stood still in their garden, but it has been designed and planted by Heidi and Michael over the past 22 years. The overall effect is one of romantic nostalgia. Here Japanese bantam or Chabo chickens range freely, hunting for snails until four o'clock, when they hasten to be fed near their henhouse, a half-timbered thatched 'mini-cottage' built with reclaimed bricks. The henhouse and a similar-looking structure that holds a collection of old hives and other beekeeping accoutrements were designed by Michael – an architect by trade. They are copies of a traditional *Bleicherhaus* in which a farmhand and his dog would shelter to guard the bleach field where linens were stretched to be bleached by the sun.

To the left of the house, a traditional baroque parterre befits the age of the building. In the parterre, box hedging surrounds beds planted with cowslips for spring colour, and cottage classics such as hollyhocks, phlox, bellflowers, geraniums, bergamot, peonies, delphiniums and leucanthemums. Consistent with the notion that a traditional farmer's garden should be more than just a pretty space, Heidi also planted vegetables in among the flowers. "But that didn't really work for me," she says. "With one salad here and one potato plant there, you tend to forget to harvest them in time." So, the vegetables were exiled to an old-fashioned and very pretty vegetable garden, that now includes tree spinach (*Chenopodium giganteum*), red orache (*Atriplex hortensis* var. *rubra*) and marigolds. It is surrounded by the same chestnut fencing used to keep in check the three Pomeranian coarsewool sheep that live in the meadow at the back of the plot. Heidi uses their fleeces for spinning. "One of them is so curious, he will follow you around everywhere. And if he wants your attention, he will bite you in the butt," says Michael. In addition to the hens, sheep and three hives (that house good-natured Carnica bees), there is an abundance of wildlife in the garden. Obviously, planting some 120 or so roses

Continued on page 40 ▷



THIS PAGE

Top The copper beech at the entrance to Heidi and Michael's cottage was a gift from fellow villagers to welcome them into the small community.

Bottom Michael has designed two small, thatched outhouses to match the style of the house. This one serves as a tool shed, the other as a chicken coop.

Heidi and Michael both love roses, which provide a romantic backdrop to their cottage garden. They now have around 120 types, including the pretty pink *Rosa* 'Belle Isis' in the foreground and *Rosa gallica* 'Versicolor' behind.

Attracting wildlife

1 If you want to welcome bees but not wasps try hanging a fake wasp nest from a tree – near your beehive, if you have one – as wasps are territorial and will stay away. A less friendly alternative is to hang a jam jar filled with honey and vinegar and a hole in the lid. Bees won't get caught because they dislike vinegar, but wasps will.
2 Encourage insects with an bug hotel. It can be as simple as a log with holes drilled into it, as Heidi and Michael have done above, or a more elaborate hotel, such as that attached to the shed (see right).
3 Terracotta flower pots, filled with straw, make great homes for insects. You can attach one to a tree, as Heidi and Michael have above, or simply use one to cover stakes or fencing (see right).
4 You may be able to encourage grass snakes into your garden by creating a basking site for them in the sun. Log piles are ideal or you can try laying a piece of corrugated iron flat in long grass. Grass snakes mostly eat amphibians and fish so ideally it should be near a pond.
5 Control algae in your pond using barley straw rather than chemicals. You can buy barley straw from the RHS website (rhsplants.co.uk).
6 Turn your shed into more of a wildlife haven, by giving it a green roof and allowing climbers, such as roses and honeysuckle, to ramble over it.

A traditional German beach chair, surrounded by fragrant herbs, looks out over an abundance of roses.

Right Michael and Heidi Chalupka.

▷ does wonders for attracting bees, butterflies and bugs. As do old fruit trees, such as the Altländer Pfannkuchenapfel ('pancake apple'), and combinations of both with a *Rosa* 'Bobbie James' rambling through a *Malus domestica* 'Belle de Boskoop', or *Rosa* 'Bleu Magenta' covering a 'Graham's Royal Jubilee' underplanted with hostas.

A fragrant *Rosa* Rosarium Uetersen (='Kortersen') was about the only rose already in the garden, when Heidi started planting. Today, along the path they've named 'Gerda Nissen alley', after the German garden writer, you see – and smell – Alba roses, such as 'Minette', 'Chloris' and 'Blush Hip'; Centifolias, such as 'Daphne', 'The Bishop' and 'La Noblesse'; moss roses, such as 'Nuits de Young', and David Austin's 'Charles de Mills'. Elsewhere there is the local beauty, *Rosa* Schöne aus Angeln. With traditional cottage plants, such as aquilegias, delphiniums and poppies, this is a truly idyllic garden.

As well as plants, history buffs Heidi and Michael are always on the lookout for old tools for their private museum of country life. This link with the past reminds them that no matter how idyllic their hamlet is today, centuries ago, life here was tough. All the more reason to appreciate their slice of paradise. ☐

USEFUL INFORMATION

Address Hestoft 24, 24897 Ulsnis, Germany.

Tel +49 (0)4622 18 00 10.

Open Visitors are welcome to look around the garden and private museum. Call in advance to arrange a time and date.

Character building

For Heidi and Michael it's important that the hard landscaping in their garden fits in with the overall historical feel. They've used plain terracotta pots, chestnut fencing, gravel or cobbled paths (inset with glazed tiles by a local artist), reclaimed bricks and wood, and have created water features and planters from old stone troughs. Even using aluminium foil to scare away birds from his vegetables is too modern for Michael. Instead he sticks chicken feathers into potatoes and hangs them from branches. Not everything in their garden is as old as it seems – some pots have been smeared with fresh buttermilk and left in a shady, damp place to encourage moss – but they've mixed old with new to great effect, and their garden is brimming with ideas for adding characterful charm.

1 Look out for antique tools. Here Heidi and Michael have hung a collection of cups and jugs on an old drag-harrow on the side of their tool shed, and placed an attractive old knife grinder nearby.

2 Using heritage colours to paint outdoor furniture will give it a more authentic look. Heidi and Michael have painted their bench a traditional oxblood red to match the door and window.

3 Using reclaimed wood will instantly make a structure feel as though it belongs in a garden. Michael has restored this wooden well, using old planks and a dead tree.

4 Cleft chestnut fencing looks great and is both easy and affordable to install. The high tannin content of chestnut acts as a natural preservative and will deter any livestock from nibbling at it.

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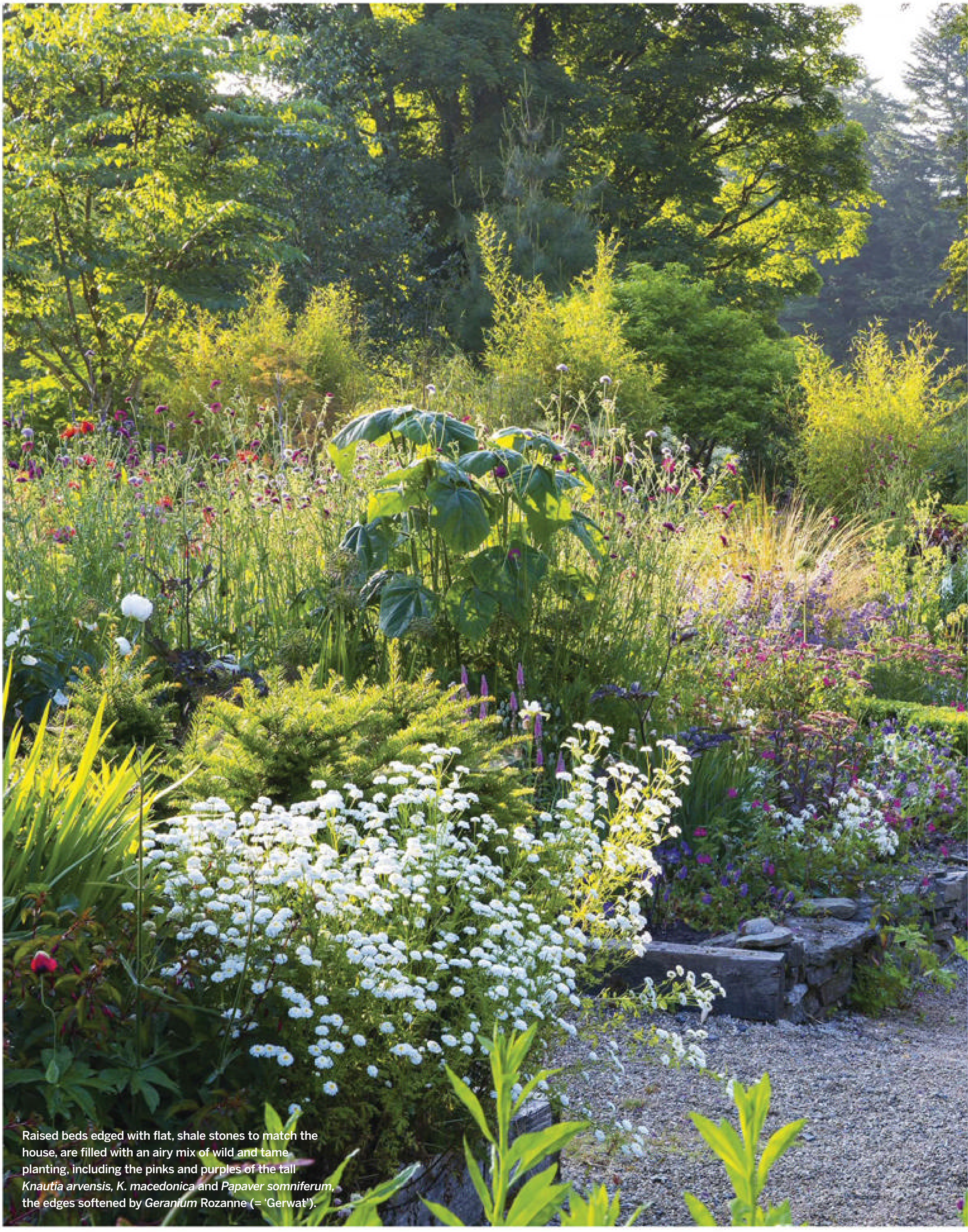


Raised beds edged with flat, shale stones to match the house, are filled with an airy mix of wild and tame planting, including the pinks and purples of the tall *Knautia arvensis*, *K. macedonica* and *Papaver somniferum*, the edges softened by *Geranium* Rozanne (= 'Gerwat').

Irish gem

Passionate plantswoman June Blake has used her painterly eye to masterfully fuse contemporary design with colourful planting in her Co. Wicklow garden

WORDS **ANNIE GATTI** PHOTOGRAPHS **MARIANNE MAJERUS**

In brief

What Densely planted garden underpinned with strong geometric frame in the centre and softer, curving lines where the garden meets the surrounding countryside.

Where Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

Size Three acres.

Climate Cool temperate, falling to -5°C in winter.

Soil Predominantly loam with acid soil in woodland area.

Hardiness rating USDA 8a-9b.

The gravel approach to June Blake's three-acre garden surrounding a former farm steward's cottage in Co. Wicklow encapsulates the spirit of this contemporary garden that sensitively melds new with old, wild with tamed. Carved out of a sloping field, the approach retains the original width of the farmyard entrance but June has framed the central section in rusted steel, which tones perfectly with the rusted farm gate. This comfortable path runs along a north-facing border that banks up across purple, pink, bronze, cream and green foliage and flowers to a head-high screen of thalictrum, veronicastrum and filipendula.

The rest of the garden is revealed via two entrance paths: the lower one leading to semi-shaded woodland planting and the upper one opening on to a stone terrace. Here the sea of perennials and grasses in a grid of nine rectangular beds is framed magically by a contorted *Larix decidua*, rescued by June when an oppressive wall of laurels and sycamores were taken out soon after she moved into the house in 1998.

June came late to horticulture, after many years dividing her time between her jewellery business and the family sheep farm. But plants are in her blood. Her brother Jimi is a renowned plantsman whose own garden, Hunting Brook, is up the road from June's. It was Jimi who persuaded her to re-train in horticulture, after she'd retired and moved from the neighbouring family farm, leading her to clear space for a nursery. A couple of years later, she laid out the garden.

The central raised beds, edged in flat shale stones and connected by wide gravel paths, were inspired by the strong lines of the house. "I wanted everything to connect back to the house, to a window, a door, the line of contrasting bricks, the roof lines," she says. The central path leads up through the densely planted beds, past an arc of umbrella-shaped *Aralia echinocaulis* to wooden sleeper steps set into mown grass. At the top is a grassy mount. June always leads visitors to the mount first as the view it offers not only encompasses the whole garden, including the farmyard and its restored cow house (an award-winning holiday house), but also the borrowed landscape of trees and distant hills. There's not a house in sight.

From here she takes them round the meadow, studded in spring with red tulips and camassias and now an airy confection of *Knautia arvensis* and *K. macedonica*, down the grassy bank that skirts the garden on the far side. Suddenly, the upturned trunk of a dead elm comes into sight and below it a rectangular reflecting pool, delineated in rusted steel and kissed by the flower heads of *Stipa gigantea,* which dangle over the stone wall. Although this is a garden of contrasts, nothing jars thanks to the use of local materials – much re-used from the farm itself, such as the seat made from a felled sweet chestnut and the zinc drinking ▷

1 Warped railway sleepers punctuate a path mown into grass through swathes of meadow planting that leads to the top of the mount.

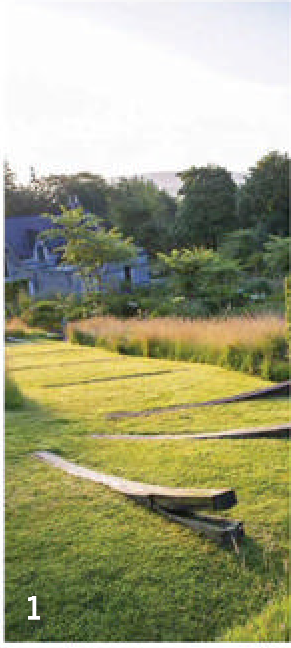
2 In this border a pale-flowered *Rodgersia pinnata* stands out against the lime green of ferns and *Alchemilla mollis*.

3 On the left, self-seeding *Papaver somniferum* and *P. rhoeas* add vibrant notes to a mound of fresh foliage of *Crocosmia* 'Lucifer', punctuated by purple-leaved *Senecio cristobalensis*. The magenta-purple flowers of *Geranium* 'Anne Thomson' soften the path's edge.

4 June allows the opium poppy, *Papaver somniferum,* to grow where it self seeds.

5 The restful reflecting pool is framed by two simple seats in polished concrete.

6 To the front of a busy border, rosy-red *Achillea millefolium* 'Red Velvet', is contrasted with cool blues of *Allium cristophii* and *Nepeta* 'Six Hills Giant'.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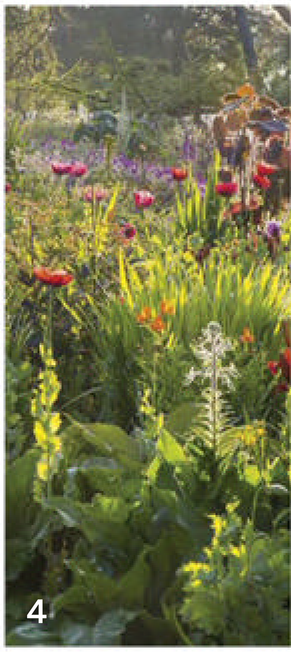
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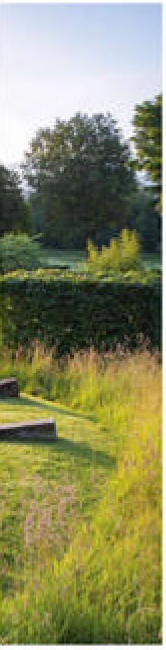
Balancing design and naturalistic planting

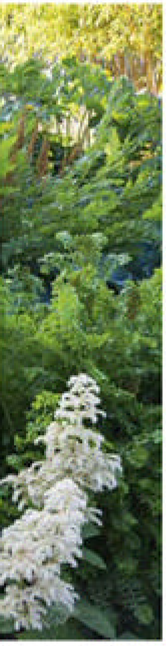
"It takes a lot of manipulation to make a garden look wild," admits June. Although she tends to let nature take the lead when it comes to placing wild flowers – allowing plants such as poppies or angelica, to grow where they self seed – June warns against letting nature take its course. "If you leave angelica you'll have nothing but angelica," she says. "You need to be very selective and weed out unwanted seedlings."

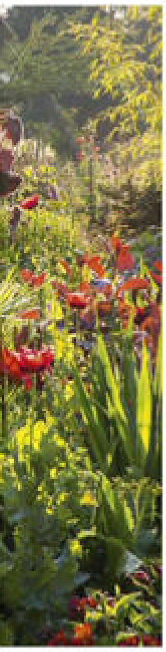
Grasses, she feels, give almost any design a wild look. She especially loves *Stipa tenuissima* ("very soft, very tactile"), *S. gigantea*, *Eragrostis curvula* and *Miscanthus nepalensis*, and uses these throughout her garden, cleverly creating a link to the wild grasses that grow in the outer fields.

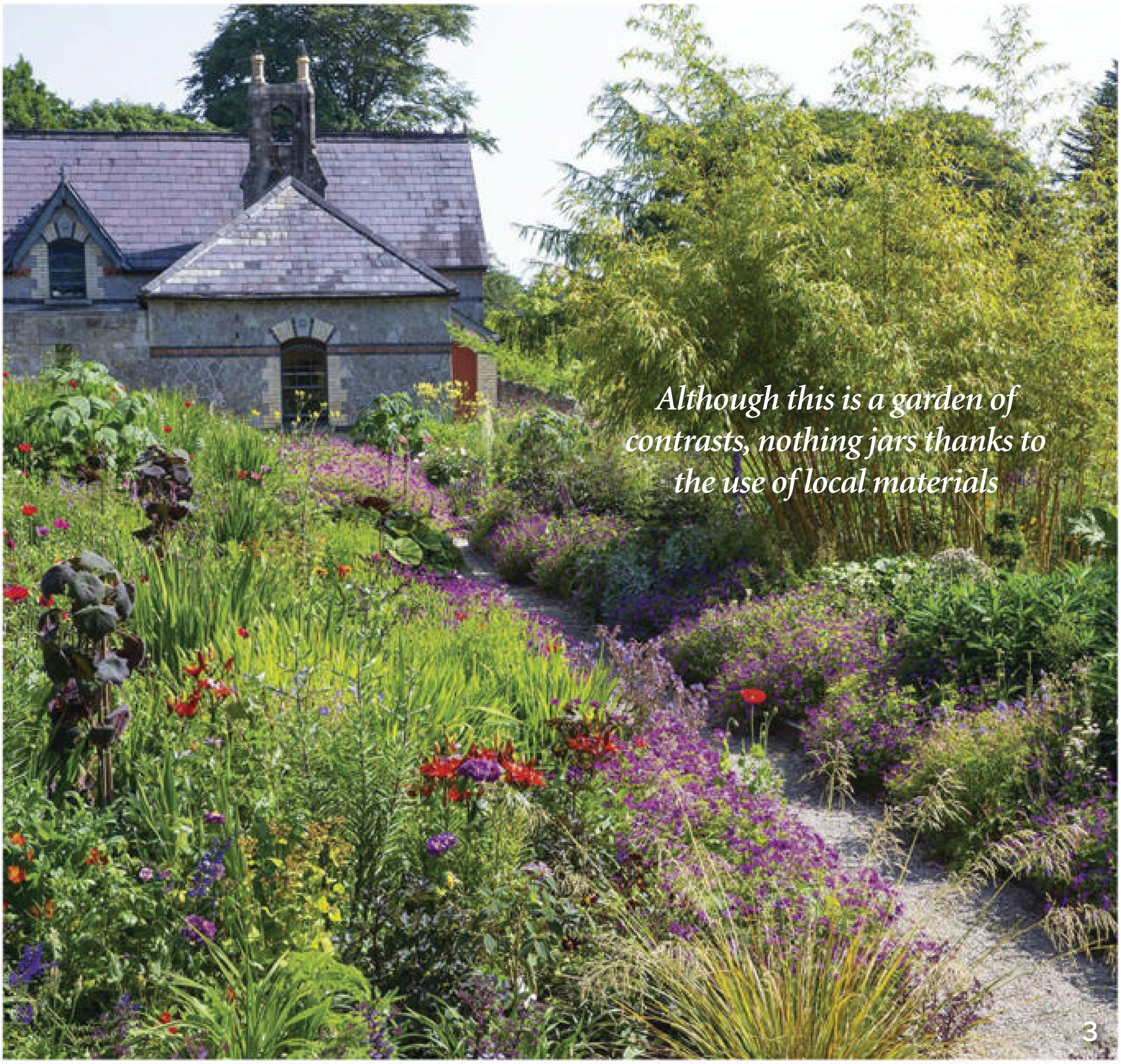
At the edge of the fields she uses wild flowers too thuggish for a border, such as willow herb, to blur the boundaries, allowing the occasional better-mannered field flower to cross over to link with her garden design.

She also likes to use cultivars that are closely related to their wild cousins, such as *Filipendula rubra* 'Venusta', which although similar to the meadowsweet that grows wild by roads is a more sophisticated pink colour. "Another group of plants I'm using a lot at the moment," she says, "are single-flowered, species dahlias. They look great and are extremely bee-friendly."









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Although this is a garden of contrasts, nothing jars thanks to the use of local materials

5

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June cleverly mixes interesting shape and careful colour combinations in her borders.

troughs that now serve as planters at the entrance to the yard.

Each of the main beds has its own identity – there's a hot bed, a big and bold one, a newly replanted airy bed that segues into the meadow. In some, one or two plants are dominant, such as the achillea bed close to the terrace. "The most important thing with this bed – it's the first one I see every morning – is that it looks good all the time," says June. "In spring it's packed with tulips and alliums, followed by achilleas and *Knautia macedonica*. *Chionochloa rubra* is its anchor plant in winter." Taller plants, such as thalictrum, actea, ligularia and *Artemisia lactiflora*, form leitmotifs across several beds and geraniums and silver pulmonarias soften the edges.

"Plants have to work very hard for me," she says. "I don't want a plant that's going to die after a year, as do most echinaceas."

Although June has tried lots of unusual plants she feels it's important to edit and admits she's just cut down a swathe of *Knautia macedonica* in full flower, because it was blocking the view from the house.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Address Tinode, Blessington,
Co. Wicklow, Ireland.
Tel +353 87 277 0399.
Website juneblake.ie
Open April to September, Wednesday to Sunday, 11am-5.30pm.

8 of June's favourite plants

1 *Primula florindae* Keillour hybrids
Gloriously scented and available in a range of colours. The red and orange ones go well with silver pulmonarias, and the seedheads hold up well in winter.

2 *Geranium* 'Anne Thomson'
I love the deep magenta colour of this geranium and the fact that you don't have to cut it back after the first flush of flowers. The leaf is a lovely fresh green. 45cm. AGM*. RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b†.

3 *Knautia arvensis*
A wonderful tall knautia for a meadow setting. I cut the main growing centre out in May, which makes it branch more and means you don't have to stake it. 1.5m.

4 *Pulmonaria officinalis* 'Blake's Silver'
This is my own introduction, which I use as a foliage plant in the woodland walk. It has large silver leaves and pink flowers. After flowering, cut it back and the foliage will increase hugely. 45cm. USDA 4a-8b.

5 *Thalictrum* 'Splendide'
This very tall thalictrum has a lovely dark stem, fresh-green leaves and pure purple in the flower. It's sterile and flowers for a long time. 2.4m. USDA 4a-7b.

6 *Rodgersia pinnata* 'Perthshire Bronze'
The leaves are a wonderful mix of red, bronze and green, and the soft-pink flower is beautiful and scented. The flowers are followed by deep-red seedheads. It prefers moist conditions but doesn't like to be crowded. 1.2m.

7 *Epipactis gigantea*
This hardy, North American orchid, which tolerates dry conditions here, spreads slowly but reliably. Plant it near eye level to see the detail in the flowers. 45cm. USDA 7b.

8 *Eragrostis curvula*
This medium-sized arching grass is very good at the edge of the border. It has a long season of interest, flowering from midsummer to the end of autumn. 90cm. USDA 9a-10b.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
† Hardiness ratings given where available.

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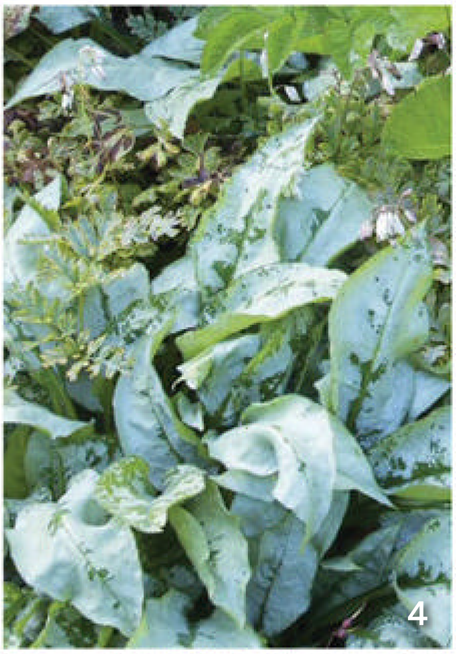
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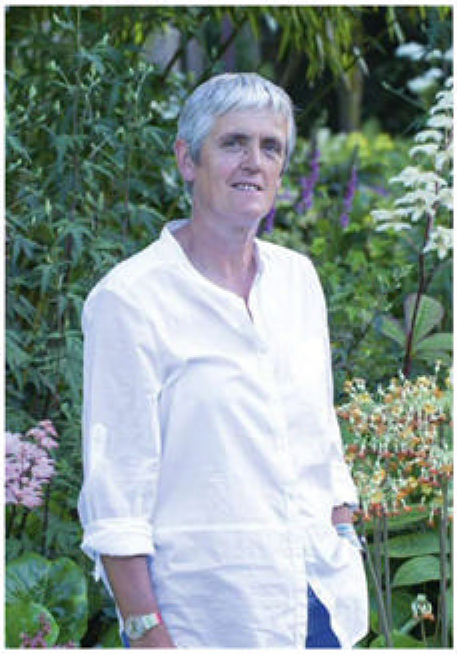

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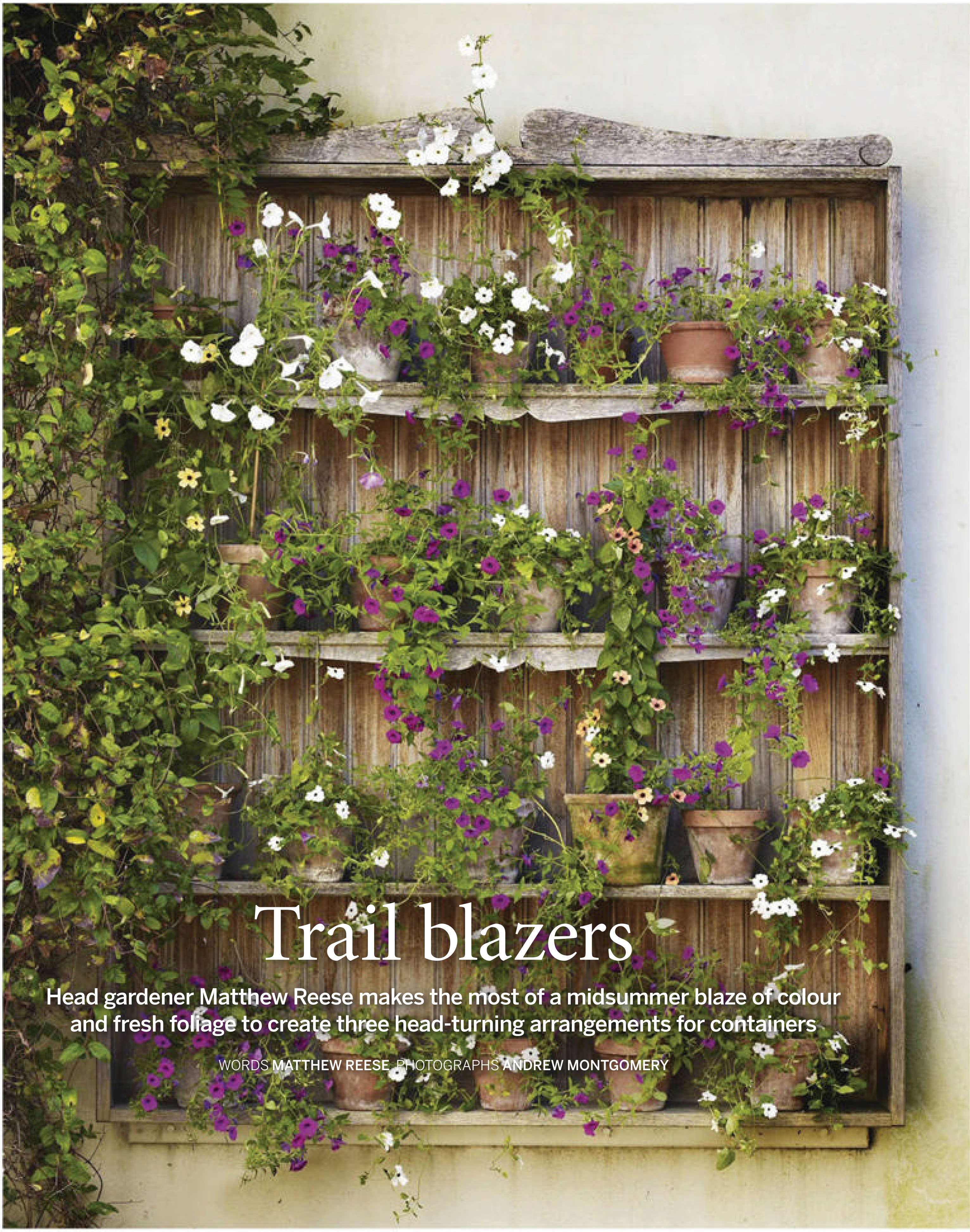
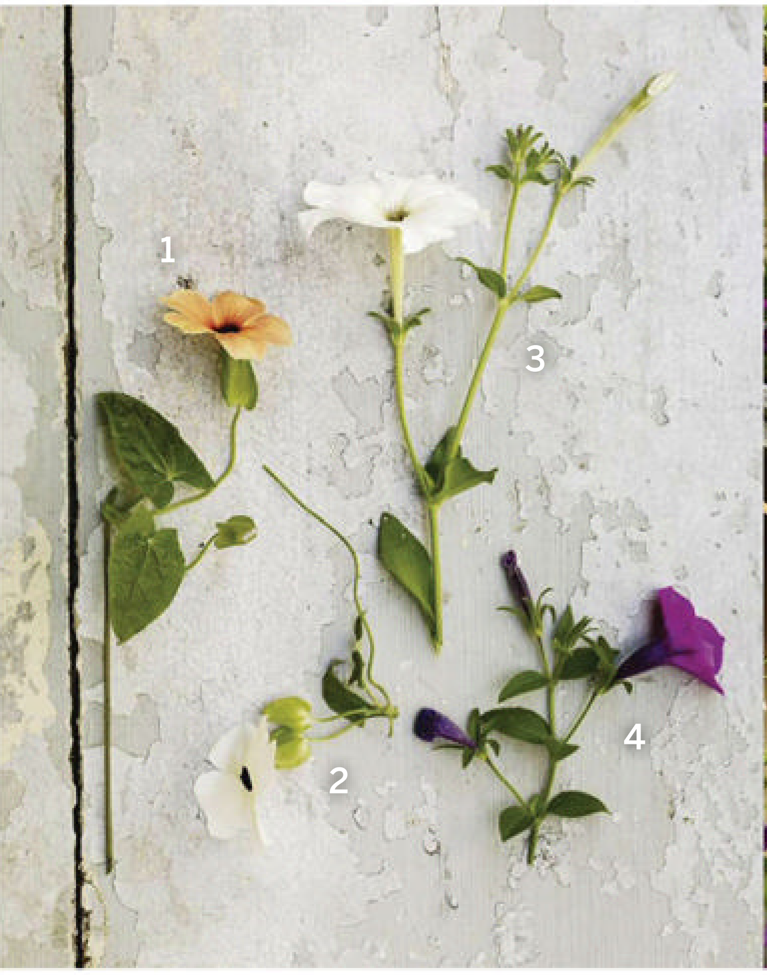


Trail blazers

Head gardener Matthew Reese makes the most of a midsummer blaze of colour and fresh foliage to create three head-turning arrangements for containers

WORDS **MATTHEW REESE** PHOTOGRAPHS **ANDREW MONTGOMERY**



Theatrical flourish

By late July my petunias are starting to make their presence felt. These are not the petunias manipulated by plant breeders that you see proffered by garden centres up and down the country; these are beautiful, seed-grown species that have wildness still in their blood. The white one is *Petunia axillaris* and the magenta, *P. integrifolia*. Clambering through these two petunias are two different cultivars of *Thunbergia alata,* the black-eyed Susan vine. All have been planted in terracotta pots arranged on a set of hanging shelves that we've fixed against a white-rendered wall so we can see the display from our kitchen window.

How to achieve the look

Cultivation and care

Clay pots look so much better than black plastic ones and their weight also makes them less likely to fall off the shelf. Even so, as the plants grow the pots can become unstable so I stretch a thin wire across the front of each row to prevent accidents. I use one plant per five-litre pot in John Innes No.2 compost and make sure there is ample space between each pot so that it doesn't feel too congested. I feed weekly with a high-potash feed and water daily. These two species of petunia have a much nicer balance of flower and foliage than bedding types, but what I like most is the scent of *P. axilaris*, which comes alive as the sun is setting and the moon rising.

Display unit

Shelves are a great way to display these rambling petunias. These ones are bespoke, made from varnished pine that has become worn over time. Its design is based on the top half of a Welsh dresser, but with pots of trailing flowers in place of a range of best china. For a similar look you could pick up an old dresser from an auction and fix its top half to a wall. You could then use the lower, cupboard portion as a potting bench with built-in storage for seed packets. But if you are fixing shelves to a wall, make sure they are bolted very firmly. The weight of all those pots – especially after they've all been watered – will soon add up.

Plants (see above left)

1 *Thunbergia alata* 'African Sunset'
A black-eyed Susan vine, with shades of dusky watermelon. 90cm.

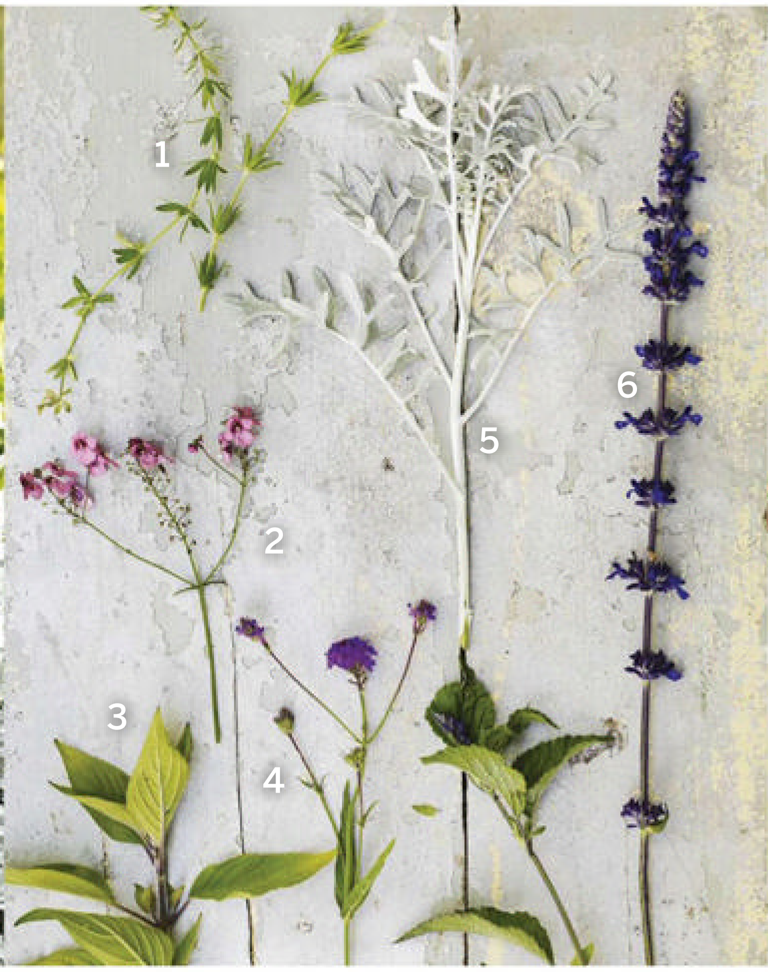
2 *Thunbergia alata* 'Arctic White'
A pure white species. 90cm.

3 *Petunia axillaris*
A large-flowered upright petunia that works well in pots. 2m.

4 *Petunia integrifolia*
Violet-flowered species. 2m.

Recommended suppliers

- **Cactus Shop**
  cactusshop.co.uk
- **Dove Cottage Nursery**
  dovecottagenursery.co.uk
- **Flobus**
  flobus.nl
- **Hayloft Plants**
  hayloft-plants.co.uk
- **Plants of Distinction**
  plantsofdistinction.co.uk



Show stopper

This group of potted plants creates a floral full stop to a nearby border. Compositions, such as this, are a good way to trial new plants and explore potential combinations for the garden. I am constantly adding, subtracting and shifting pots around to see which plantS might work and where. Often I will take a sprig of flowers from one of the plants in the arrangement to hold up against potential partners along the border in a sort of horticultural speed-dating mission to find new eye-catching combinations.

How to achieve the look

Cultivation and care

Be sure to lift the base of each pot slightly off the ground using a few slips of slate or similar so that water can drain freely. Place the pots close enough to each other so that the plants can link hands but don't look squashed, and move them further apart as the plants grow. At the back of this arrangement is *Salvia elegans* 'Golden Delicious', which has bright-yellow foliage and red flowers in October. Its leaves are pineapple scented and are apparently good in salads. They work well with the dark-blue spires of *Salvia* 'Indigo Spires' and the smoky pink flowers of *Diascia personata* – all three have stamina, flowering well into autumn. The diascia also works with the silver foliage of the *Senecio cineraria* 'Silver Dust' and the purple flowers and fresh, green leaves of *Verbena rigida*. The verbena also works well with the *Phuopsis stylosa* 'Purpurea' that is lapping on to the cobbles at the front.

Containers

Older clay pots, such as these, look more comfortable on the York stone and granite cobbles than new, brightly coloured terracotta. Good as they look, it's worth bearing in mind that the fashion for using terracotta pots was influenced by Italian gardens where these pots could be left outside year round without suffering from cold damage. In this country they invariably need some winter protection and ideally should be sheltered from winter frosts in an orangery or greenhouse.

Plants

1 *Phuopsis stylosa* 'Purpurea'
An adaptable, small, procumbent perennial with pink flowers on trailing fresh-green foliage. Will tolerate poor soils. 22cm.

2 *Diascia personata*
One of the hardier members of *Diascia* tribe. 1.4m.

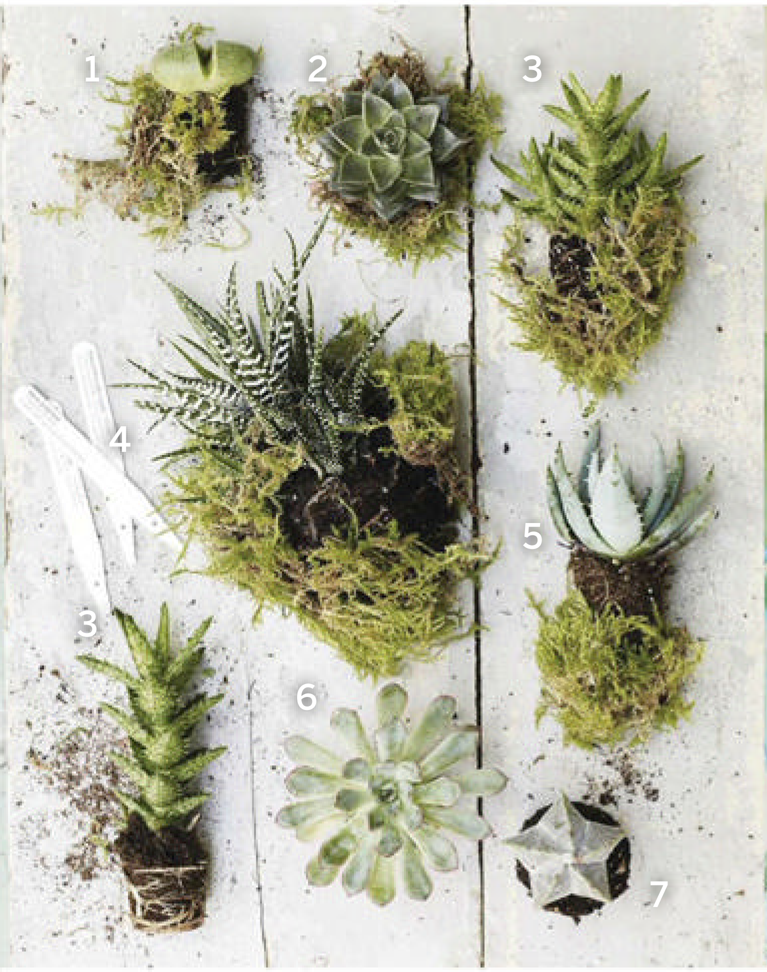
3 *Salvia elegans* 'Golden Delicious'
Also known as the golden-leaved pineapple sage, this has very clean yellow leaves, that reached 1.2m in last summer's hot garden. 1.2m.

4 *Verbena rigida*
A nicely suckering verbena, that can come through milder winters, with purple flowers. AGM*. 60cm.

5 *Senecio cineraria* 'Silver Dust'
Deeply dissected silver leaves, a good foil for brighter colours. AGM. 30cm.

6 *Salvia* 'Indigo Spires'
One of the best late, tender blue salvias for the flower garden. Flowers from July onwards. 1.8m.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.



Touch of glass

I have a disjointed collection of old glasses – mostly rummers, champagne coupes and flutes, but anything really that I like the look of – which I use to create small arrangements for the centre of a lunchtime table. Glasses don't have to be antique, but older glasses have so much more character than a mass-produced piece of modern glass. Here I've used a few smaller coloured pieces to house a selection of succulents from the greenhouse. Succulents and cacti have such curious shapes they make a fresh alternative to flowers and, being compact, they won't get in the way of good conversation – they may even help to start one.

How to achieve the look

Cultivation and care

You don't have to use succulents in these glass displays – violets or alpine strawberries, for example, would work just as well – but I like succulents as they always provoke the imagination. To hide the visible dark soil, I line each glass with wads of sphagnum moss raked from shady areas of the lawn. This makes a soft contrast to the glass and the succulents, but also unifies the group. Then I firm each plant into its allotted glass, allowing the woolly threads of the moss to spill here and there so it doesn't look too prim. When the display is no longer needed, the plants are potted back into the pots they came from, watered and put back into the greenhouse.

Containers

Glasses are very good receptacles for this sort of arrangement. Not only do they look comfortable in a table setting, but they're also clean and won't mark the table surface. At the back is *Haworthia attenuata* 'Striata', the zebra haworthia, in a large, conical, emerald-coloured glass. In front is the squat-looking bishop's mitre cactus, *Astrophytum myriostigma*, in a wide-brimmed Victorian rummer. To the front are a pair of Victorian blue-glass egg cups, one containing a dark rosette of *Echeveria purpusorum* the other, a smooth, pebble-like *Lithops aucampiae*. Behind these is the tiger tooth aloe, *Aloe juvenna*, in a small, green soda glass.

Plants

1 *Pleiospilos nelii*
Composed of plump, fleshy leaves that resemble pebbles, with orange-scented flowers. AGM. 10cm.

2 *Echeveria purpusorum*
Small rosettes of squat-triangular leaves. 10cm.

3 *Aloe juvenna*
A dwarf aloe from Kenya, with striking toothed leaves. 60cm.

4 *Haworthia attenuata* 'Striata'
Stiff succulent leaves with lines of white tubercles. 10cm.

5 *Aloe perfoliata*
Serrated succulent leaves on open rosettes. 45cm.

6 *Echeveria* species
A young plant of a species with red-edged foliage. 15cm.

7 *Astrophytum myriostigma*
A spineless cactus with yellow flowers in the summer. From the mountains of northeastern Mexico, it is slow growing. AGM. 70cm.

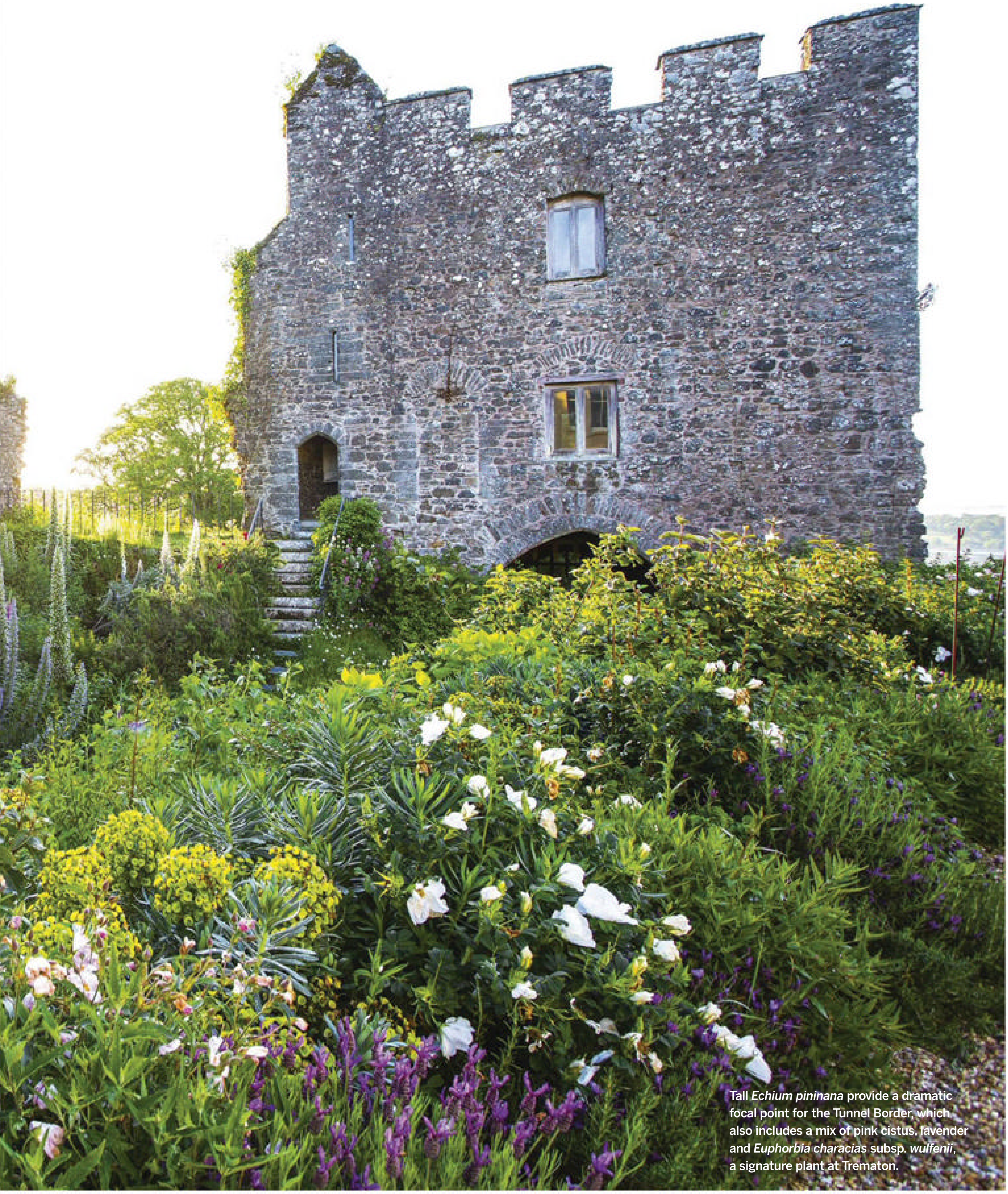
In brief

Name Trematon Castle
Where Saltash, Cornwall.
Size Nine acres, which includes woodland and a double walled garden, yet to be restored.
Soil On the acid side of neutral, with some areas made relatively alkaline by the crumbling mortar of the ruins.
Climate Maritime, but with harsh gales and occasional damaging frosts in late winter. Annual rainfall 75-115cm.
Hardiness rating USDA 9.

Capturing the castle

When garden designers Isabel and Julian Bannerman acquired Trematon Castle in Cornwall they knew they wanted to create a romantic garden that would be truly in keeping with the castle's glorious past

WORDS **ANNA PAVORD** PHOTOGRAPHS **CLAIRE TAKACS**



Tall *Echium pininana* provide a dramatic focal point for the Tunnel Border, which also includes a mix of pink cistus, lavender and *Euphorbia characias* subsp. *wulfenii*, a signature plant at Trematon.

Previous owners had planted camellias and rhododendrons… but the Bannermans wanted scent, lushness, drama, generosity… walls swathed in roses, grass spangled with wild flowers

It's always exciting, driving to Cornwall. You have the curious feeling that the edge of the map is looming up in front of you rather fast. When you leave the arteries of the main roads and start fiddling into the smaller lanes, thrilling glimpses of the sea glitter between the hedge banks. The ferns either side get bigger and bigger. The world of up-country seems further and further away.

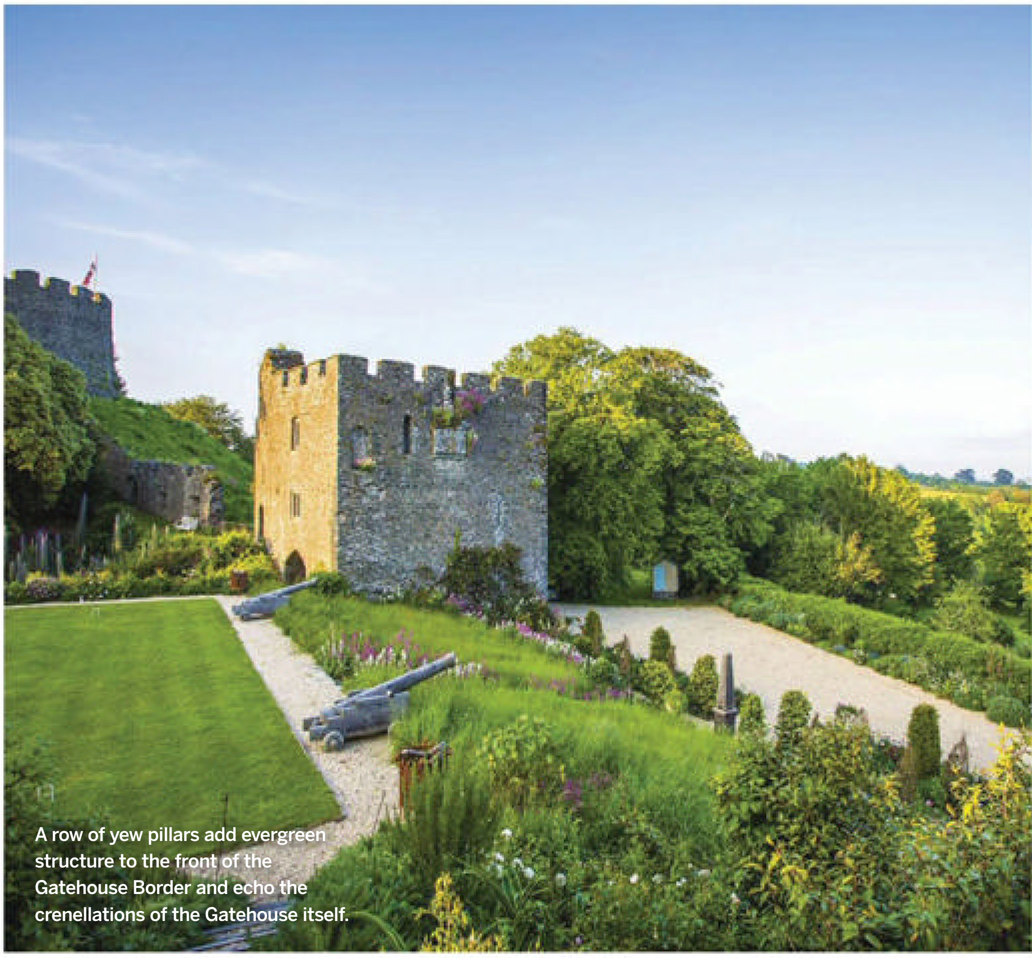
At Trematon Castle, near Saltash, garden designers Julian and Isabel Bannerman are fully engaged in enhancing this feeling of glorious escape. Their gardens have always been lusciously dramatic. But three years ago, they sold Hanham Court near Bristol, took on the lease at Trematon and have now achieved a transformation more startling and romantic than anything they've ever done before. If a unicorn stepped delicately out from under Trematon's 13th-century gatehouse, you would scarcely be surprised.

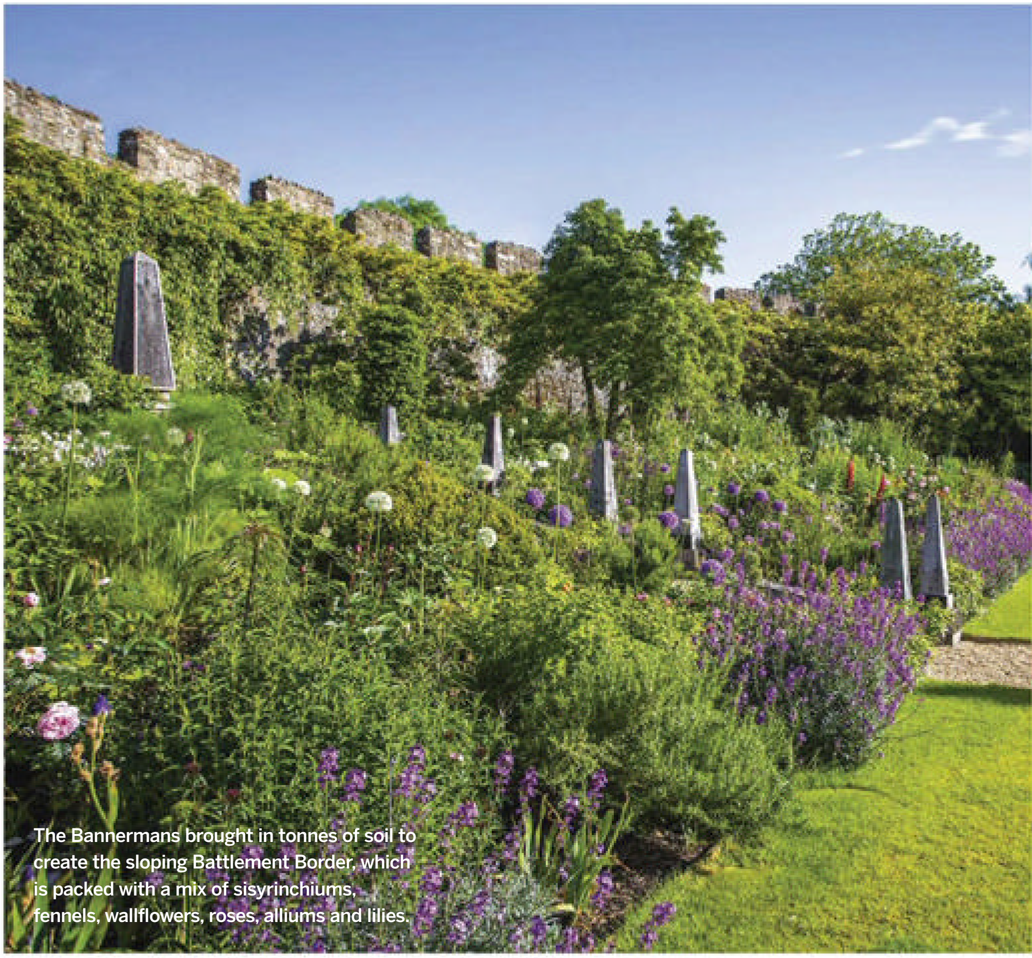
This is a real castle, with a keep on a mound, walls with crenellated tops and, says Julian Bannerman, "the best view in England". For that, the Bannermans have to thank the Duchy's Surveyor General, Benjamin Tucker, who in 1808 built a house in the ruins and pulled down enough of the castle wall to open up the superb outlook over Plymouth Sound to the wooded slopes of Antony on the far bank.

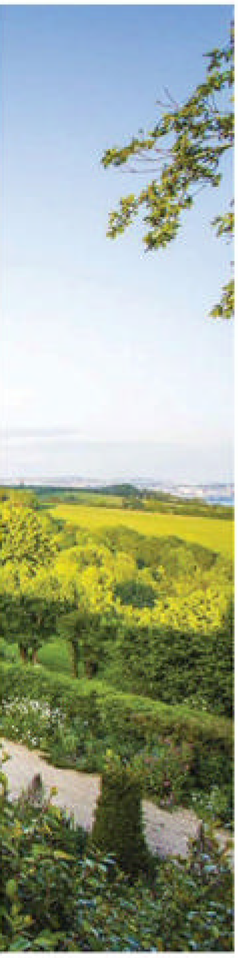
Previous owners had planted camellias and rhododendrons in the woodland. But the Bannermans wanted scent, lushness, drama, generosity. They wanted walls swathed in roses, grass spangled with wild flowers, springtimes of primroses and violets, a summer surfeit of sweet peas and lilies. And the astonishing thing is that in less than three years, that's what they've got. And with precious little help.

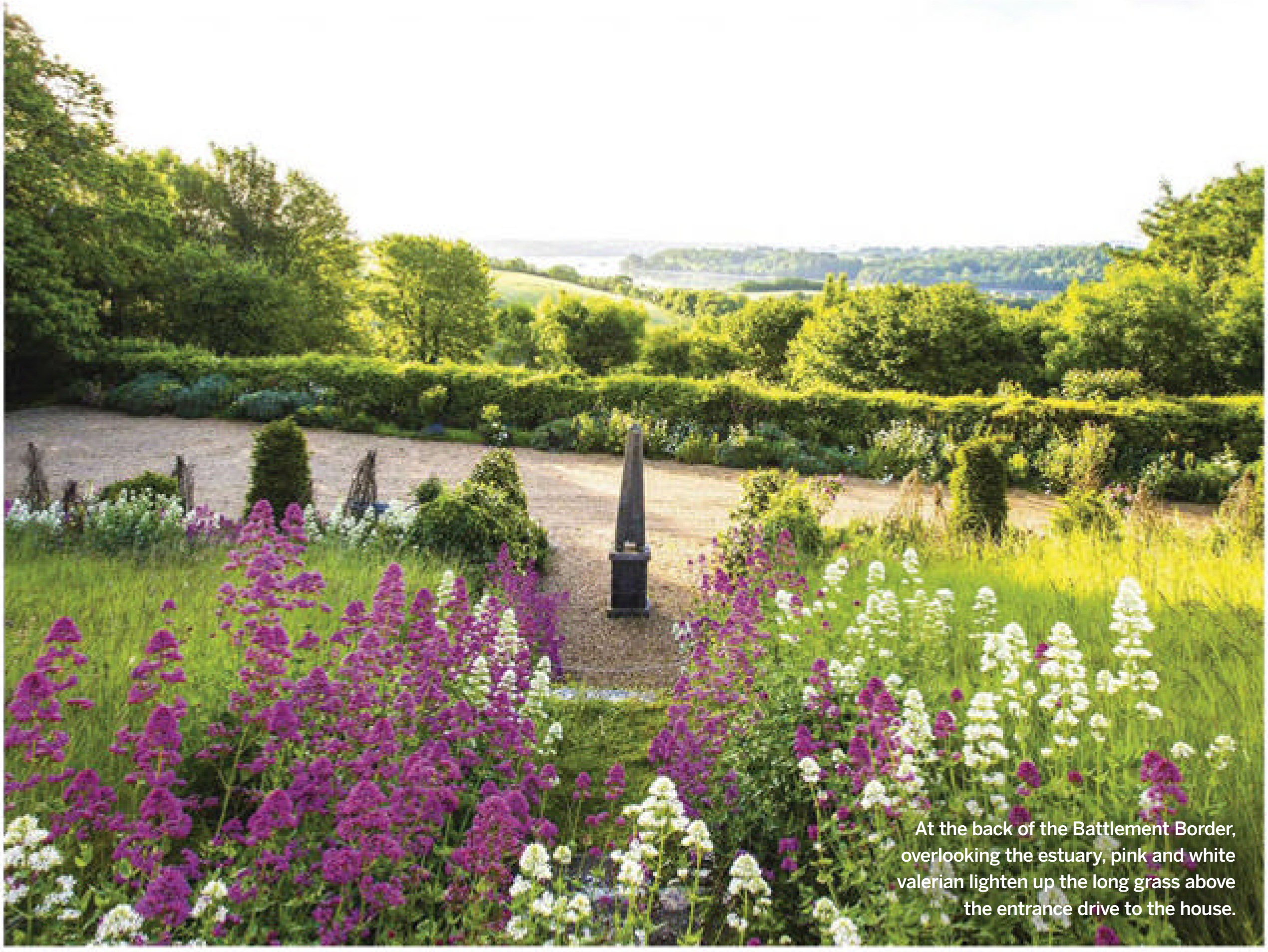
The most intensively gardened areas lie close to the house, which is bounded on the north side by the vast curving arm of the original curtain

Turn to page 60 ▷

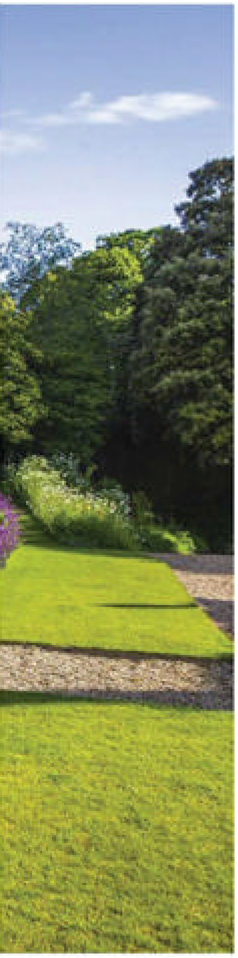

A row of yew pillars add evergreen structure to the front of the Gatehouse Border and echo the crenellations of the Gatehouse itself.

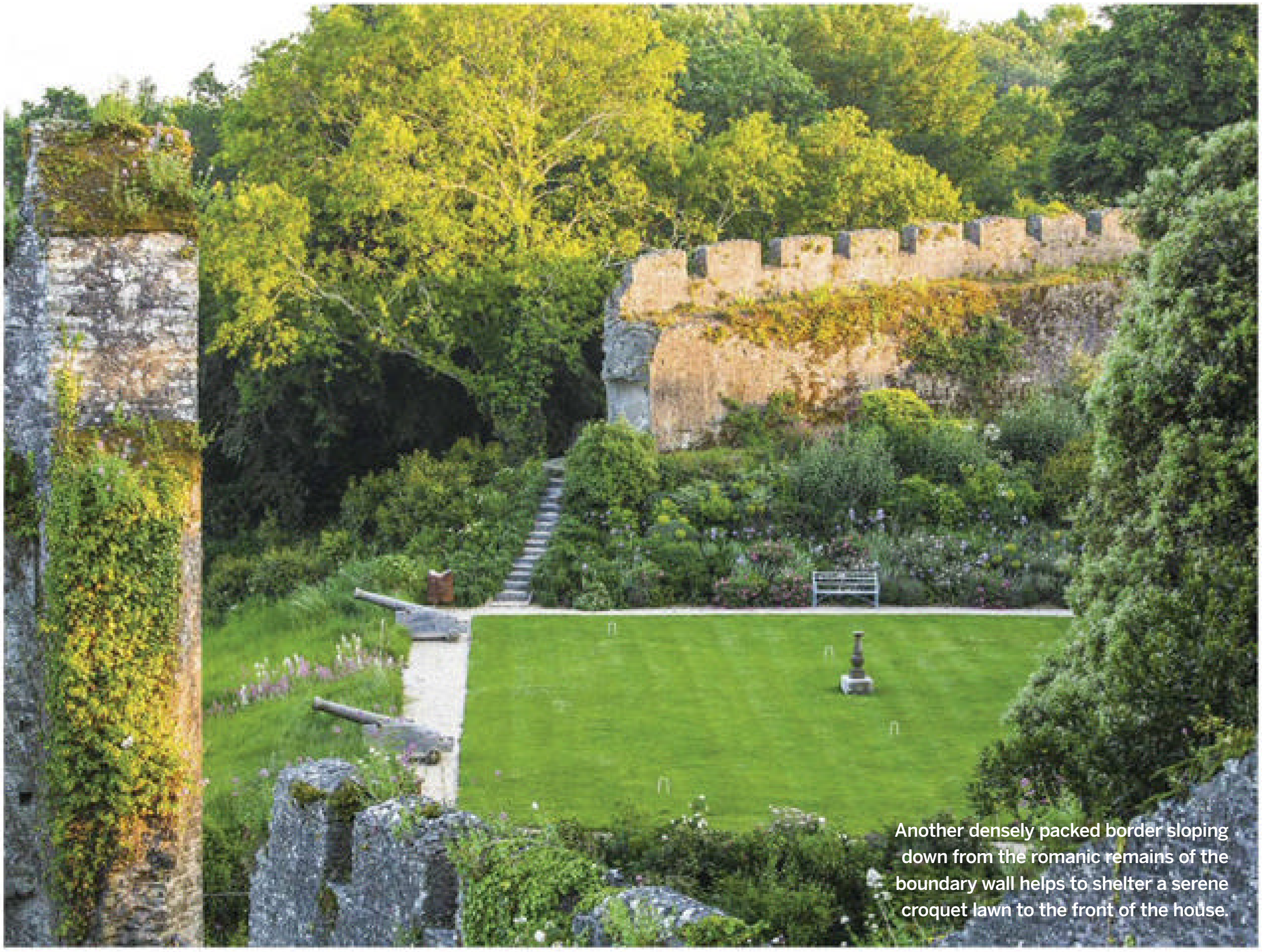

The Bannermans brought in tonnes of soil to create the sloping Battlement Border, which is packed with a mix of sisyrinchiums, fennels, wallflowers, roses, alliums and lilies.



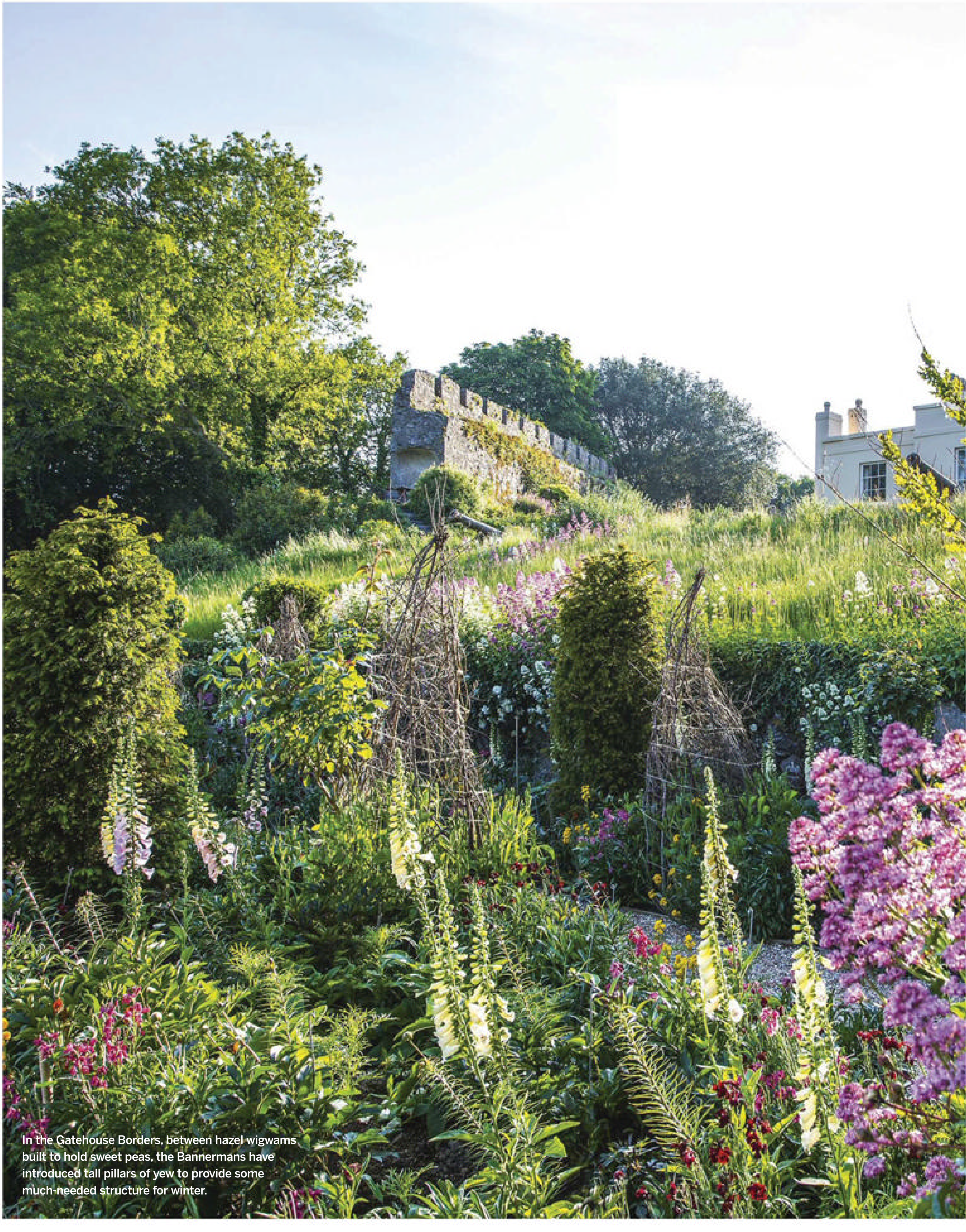


At the back of the Battlement Border, overlooking the estuary, pink and white valerian lighten up the long grass above the entrance drive to the house.

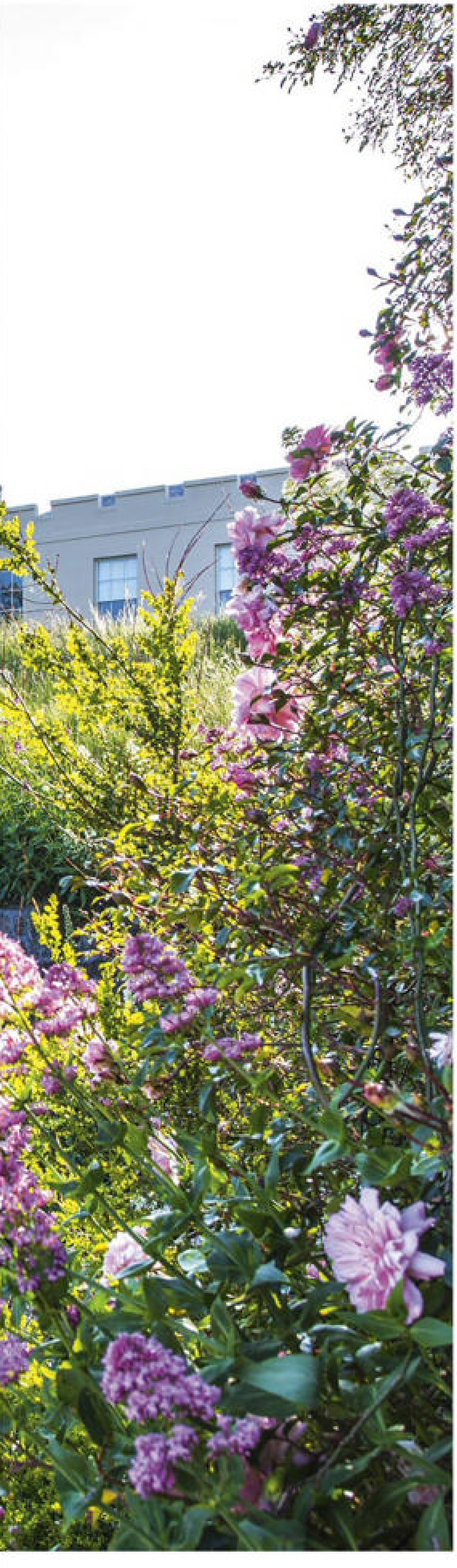


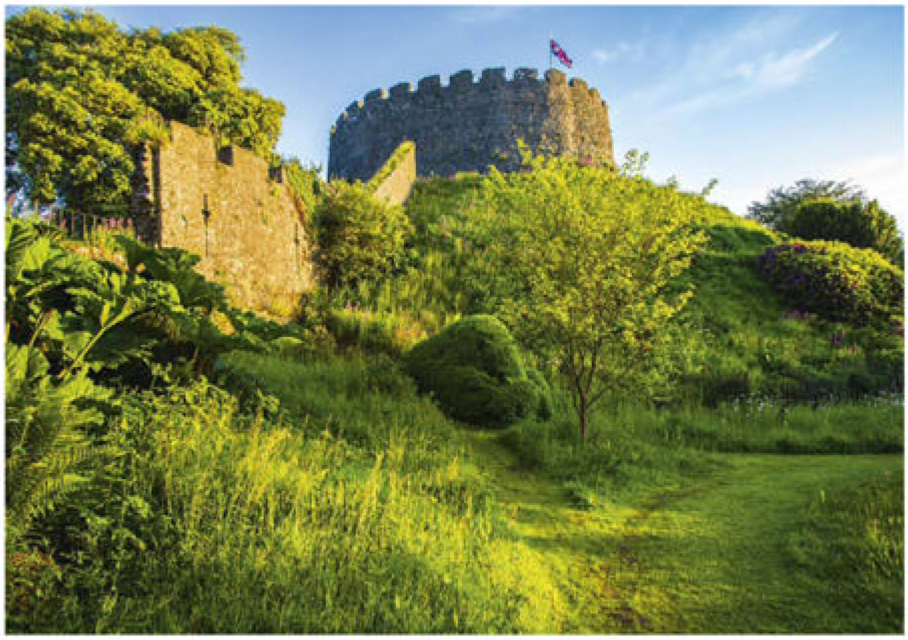


Another densely packed border sloping down from the romanic remains of the boundary wall helps to shelter a serene croquet lawn to the front of the house.



In the Gatehouse Borders, between hazel wigwams built to hold sweet peas, the Bannermans have introduced tall pillars of yew to provide some much-needed structure for winter.



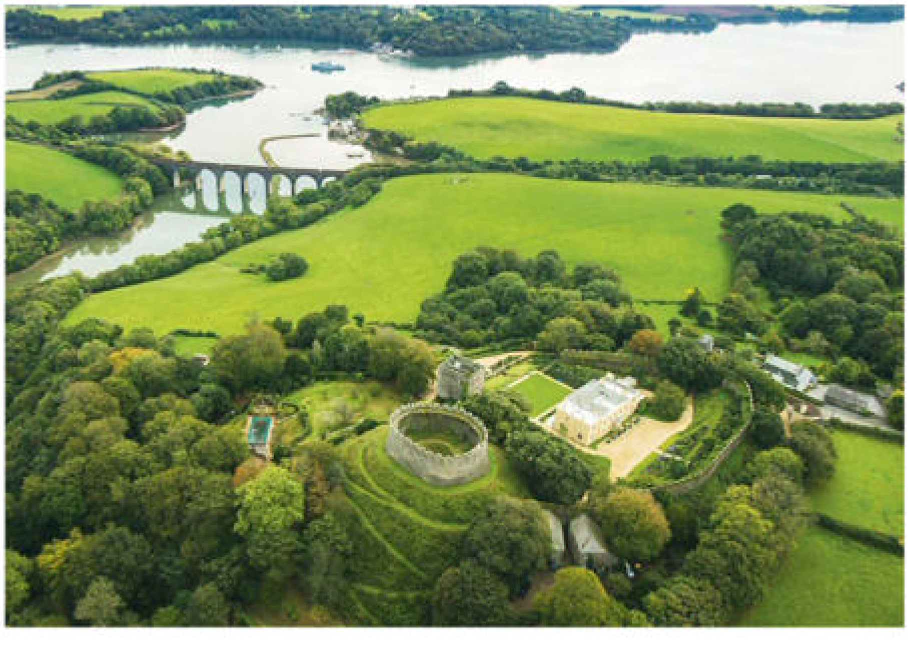


The mound (the motte)

Topped by its circular keep, the mound is an intensely dramatic feature at Trematon. When the Bannermans came, the steep, grassy slopes were almost entirely covered with *Petasites fragrans*, a thug of a plant brought in originally as an ornamental. In the few places free of this invasive perennial, was a dense carpet of primroses and violets, followed by bluebells and orchids.

With extraordinary tenacity (and occasional waves of vertigo), Julian has been eradicating the petasites. The reward is the re-emergence of a tight and beautiful grass sward filled with thyme and wild flowers. "A thousand-year old meadow," says Isabel. It's impossible to see the mound without wanting to climb it and the Bannermans have made a safe path, railed on the dangerous side, that snakes round the steep sides of the slope to reach the keep.

The walls round the roofless keep are nearly 9m high. What should happen inside? Julian has in mind a garden made entirely of umbellifers: *Selinum wallichianum*, which grows beautifully for them in the borders below, wild carrot, various kinds of fennel, orlaya, both kinds of ammi, angelica and the yellow flowers of *Ridolfia segetum*. "It wouldn't be too much work," he says thoughtfully. "They'd self-seed and we'd just leave them to sort themselves out." Isabel is thinking of chickens – as safe here, locked up in the keep, as chickens could ever be.



DANIEL-BURTON.CO.UK

▷ wall. "No soil," says Julian. "We bought in 200 tons of the stuff. It made a mound as big as the building." Against the dramatic backdrop of the wall, an enfilade of mature magnolias blooms over a rich flower border packed with the thalictrums and alliums, sisyrinchiums and fennels that the Bannermans love.

In front of this is a second, boat-shaped border, with iris and geraniums, poppies and lupins as densely set as in a medieval *millefleurs* tapestry. A grass path separates the two borders, with a central set of steps driving up the slope to an obelisk set against the wall. It looks as if it's stone. In fact it's carved wood – a clever Bannerman trick. From this vantage point you look straight down at the seven-bay façade of the house rising from a gravel sweep. On the left, two superb *Quercus ilex* guard the steep grass mound (the motte) with the keep on top.

If you walk round to the other side of the house, you get The View and your eye is allowed to roll quietly over a big plain square of grass to take full advantage of it. The windows of the house open out on to a terrace paved with the shaly, shiny stone particular to Cornwall and the Bannermans have added a narrow border below with pinks spilling out all along the front. Behind are sprawling bushes of rosemary and masses of white perennial stock.

Drama here comes from the steep slope on the right hand side, rising from the lawn to meet the curtain wall that curves round the west side of the house. It's become a Mediterranean jostle of pink cistus, with dark blue agapanthus and massive clumps of *Euphorbia characias* subsp. *wulfenii* for contrast. "If you plant densely enough, there's no room for weeds," says Isabel.

The euphorbia is a signature plant at Trematon, particularly in spring, when the lime-green heads sing out against the sober backdrop of stone walls and evergreen oaks. But in summer, echiums (*E. pininana*) take over the leading role, rearing in blue spikes up to 3m tall on the slope behind the gatehouse. In this new situation, the Bannermans have seized all the advantages of a Cornish maritime climate. Yet again, they have conjured up a bold, brave and brilliant garden. ☐

USEFUL INFORMATION

Address Trematon Castle Gardens, Castle Hill, Saltash, Cornwall PL12 4QW.

Website bannermandesign.com/trematon

Open April to September, Thursday to Saturday, 11am-4.30pm. Admission £8.

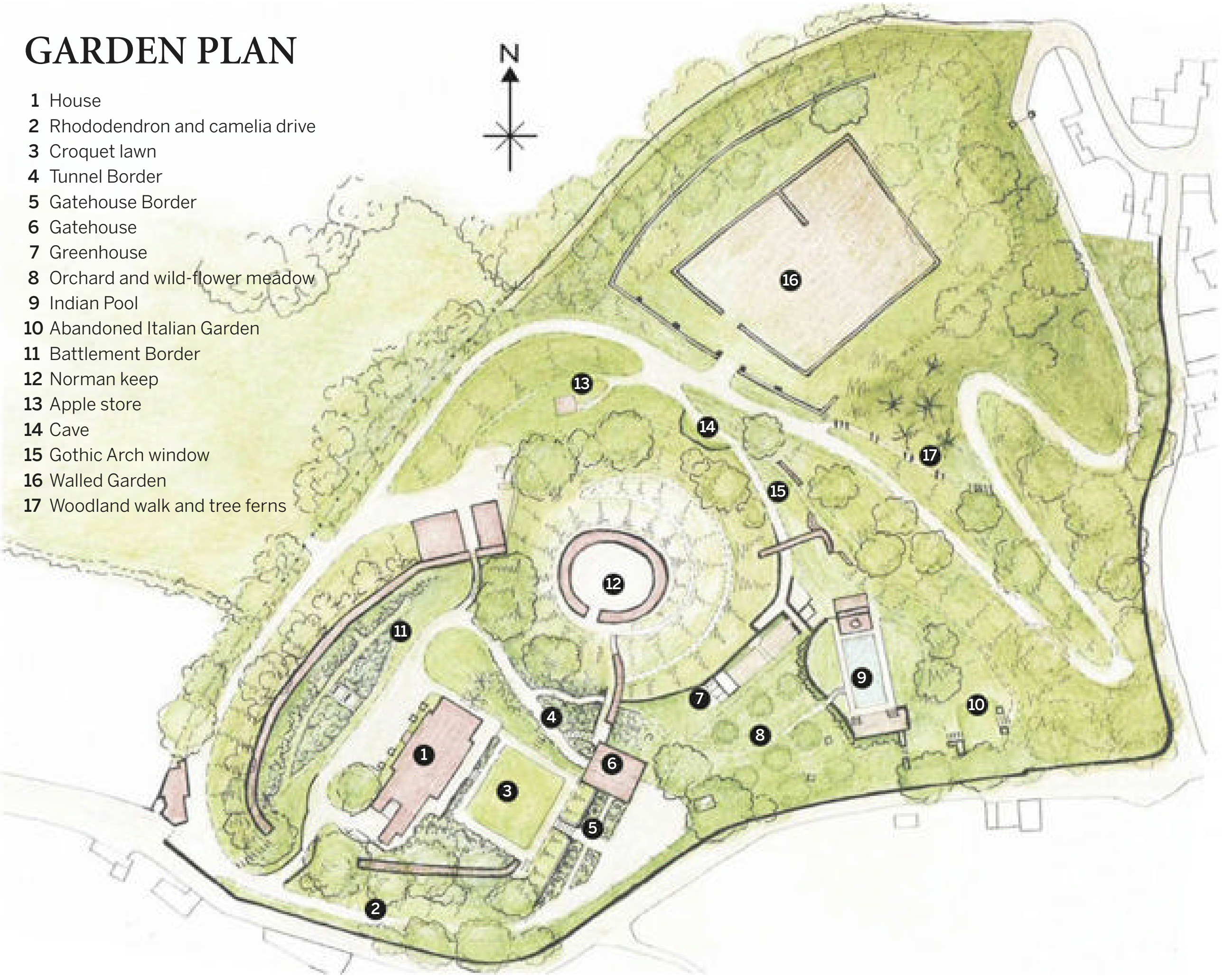
A mown path bordered by cow parsley and valerian circles up the mound to the Norman keep, offering glorious views across the estuary and down to the Indian Pool.

Grass around an old cherry tree near the house has been allowed to grow wild. "You have to know when to stop," says Julian. "You don't want to get too complicated. Or too tidy."

Much of Trematon's charm lies in corners, where wilder planting is allowed, while chusan palms near the Gatehouse offer a glimpse of more exotic planting.

GARDEN PLAN

1 House
2 Rhododendron and camelia drive
3 Croquet lawn
4 Tunnel Border
5 Gatehouse Border
6 Gatehouse
7 Greenhouse
8 Orchard and wild-flower meadow
9 Indian Pool
10 Abandoned Italian Garden
11 Battlement Border
12 Norman keep
13 Apple store
14 Cave
15 Gothic Arch window
16 Walled Garden
17 Woodland walk and tree ferns

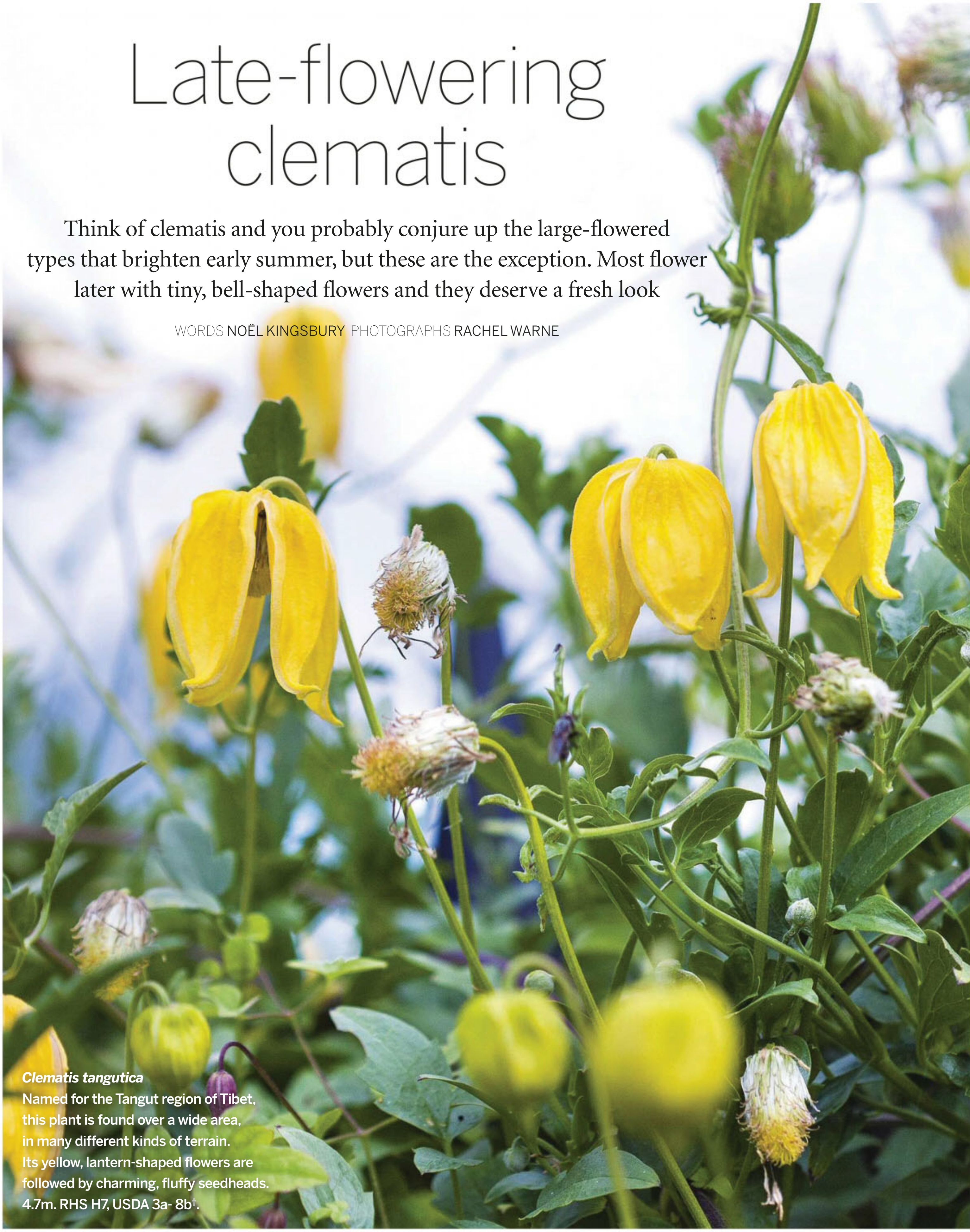


ISABEL BANNERMAN

Late-flowering clematis

Think of clematis and you probably conjure up the large-flowered types that brighten early summer, but these are the exception. Most flower later with tiny, bell-shaped flowers and they deserve a fresh look

WORDS NOËL KINGSBURY PHOTOGRAPHS RACHEL WARNE



Clematis tangutica
Named for the Tangut region of Tibet, this plant is found over a wide area, in many different kinds of terrain. Its yellow, lantern-shaped flowers are followed by charming, fluffy seedheads. 4.7m. RHS H7, USDA 3a- 8b[†].

In brief

What A large group of climbing plants, with small (generally less than 3cm), usually bell-shaped flowers.
Origins Clematis grow in nearly all cool temperate climates. They're often found in semi-desert or severe continental climates.
Season Midsummer until mid-autumn.
Size Varies enormously, from less than 2m to more than 5m in height.
Conditions All are fairly hardy but prefer sunlight for the upper part of the plant.

Noël Kingbury is a garden designer and writer whose garden on the Welsh borders reflects his passion for wild-style planting.

Most of us know clematis as plants with large showy flowers. But in fact among the 320-odd species, these are a minority. As a group of plants, clematis is not particularly ancient, although it clearly evolved early enough to get itself clambering on to every one of the continents before they separated. Although they're found in an amazingly wide range of habitats, wild clematis species do seem to have a particular fondness for cold deserts.

I have found one shrubby species forming spectacular clumps in the red clay of the desert in Kyrgyzstan, another climbing a cactus in the foothills of the Argentine Andes, and I was thrilled once to find *C. orientalis*, growing in a farmer's dry-stone wall in Pakistan's Hunza valley. All of these environments are not only dry for much of the year, they also get very hot in summer and intensely cold in winter.

The toughness and vigour of species clematis is in marked contrast to the more familiar large-flowered cultivars, which have a reputation for being somewhat temperamental and prone to disease. These late-flowering species are usually, but not always, climbing, sometimes sprawling over rocks, or forming bushes in deserts, or growing alongside grasses in meadows. Some are very vigorous, clambering over trees or rocks to reach the light, their roots usually deep in the cooler and moister levels of the soil. Others are relatively small and can be grown in containers, which makes them useful for town gardens. Very few, however, are showy, and you need to give careful thought to placing them – you'll want to get up close to be able to appreciate their subtle colours, and intriguing shapes and textures of their flowers – not to mention the scents ▷

†Hardiness ratings given where available.

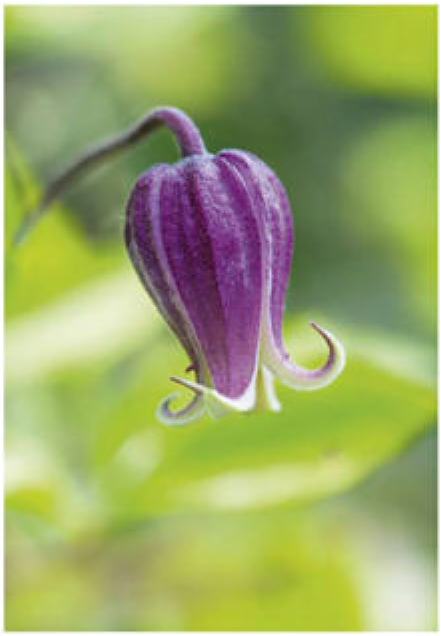
▷ some have. Many of these species flower relatively late – from midsummer, off and on, into early autumn – which is perhaps one reason they are getting increasing attention from nurseries and gardeners.

The best known of the later-flowering clematis are the 'lemon-peel' species: *C. orientalis* and *C. tangutica* (see previous page). Both are an excellent introduction to the very large number of late-flowering species, and illustrate well one of the additional advantages of these later-flowered kinds – their spherical fluffy seedheads. Unlike those of the large-flowered clematis or the early *C. montana* types, these species produce seedheads profusely from September onwards. A big *C. orientalis*, with several thousand silvery heads, illuminated by low winter sun, can be a spectacular sight. The best way to appreciate the seedheads is when the plant is climbing over a large shrub or a tree, but be careful what you allow them to go wild over; I once almost killed a large olearia by letting *C. rehderiana* (see page 68) scramble over it. I now have this species going up the hawthorns of an overgrown hedge where it cannot do any damage. I love its profusion of little thimbles, the colour of fading straw, which hang down in generous swags every August. If I had space on the house, I would grow it near the door, to appreciate its fragrance, something that is so often lacking in clematis.

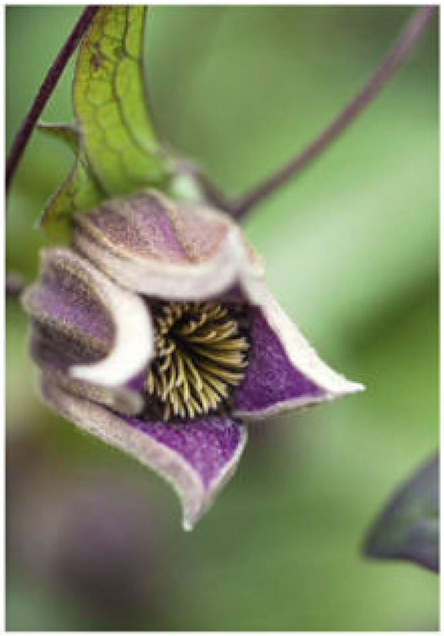
We have learned to love the odd charms of several of these later-flowering clematis, but have many more to discover. I would specifically like to mention the up-and-coming *C. viorna* group, a few of which are pictured here and are something of a cult in the USA; with more becoming available in the UK. With their intriguing flask-shaped blooms and wide, often subtle, colour range, these clematis (known as 'leather flowers') offer an enticing prospect, especially for small spaces.

Introduced to the UK over a century ago, *C. texensis* (left above) is now a well-established garden plant, others in this group deserve to be better known. With their tiny flower heads and sometimes unusual colours, these late-flowering clematis have much of the appeal of hellebores and fritillaries, and show that when it comes to climbing flowers, bigger isn't necessarily more beautiful.

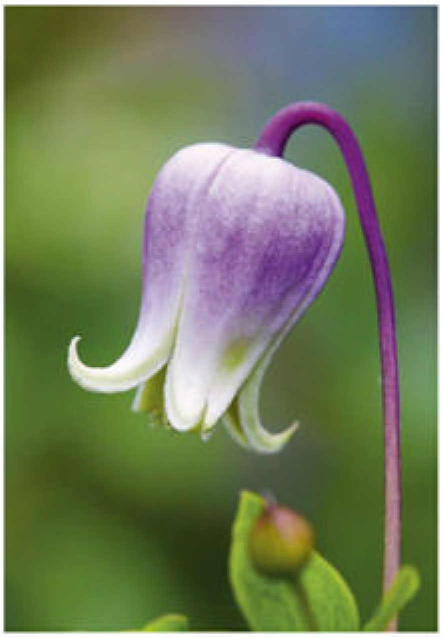
• Recommendations for late-flowering, small-flowered, clematis continue over the next six pages.



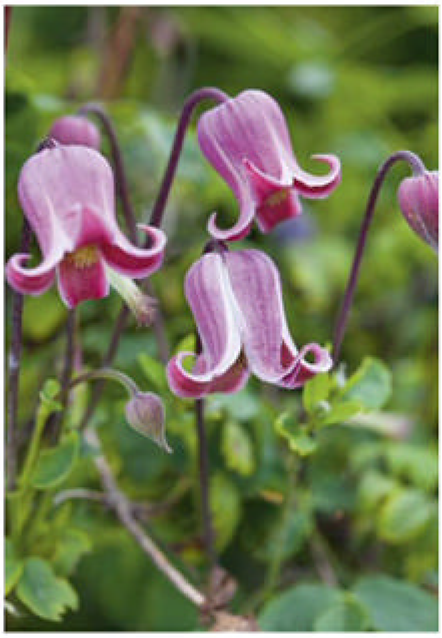
C. texensis
This species forms the basis for many new and showy hybrids, mostly noted for their vivid flowers, often in red with creamy inners. Texensis clematis are herbaceous, so need cutting back. 1.8m. USDA 4a-8b.



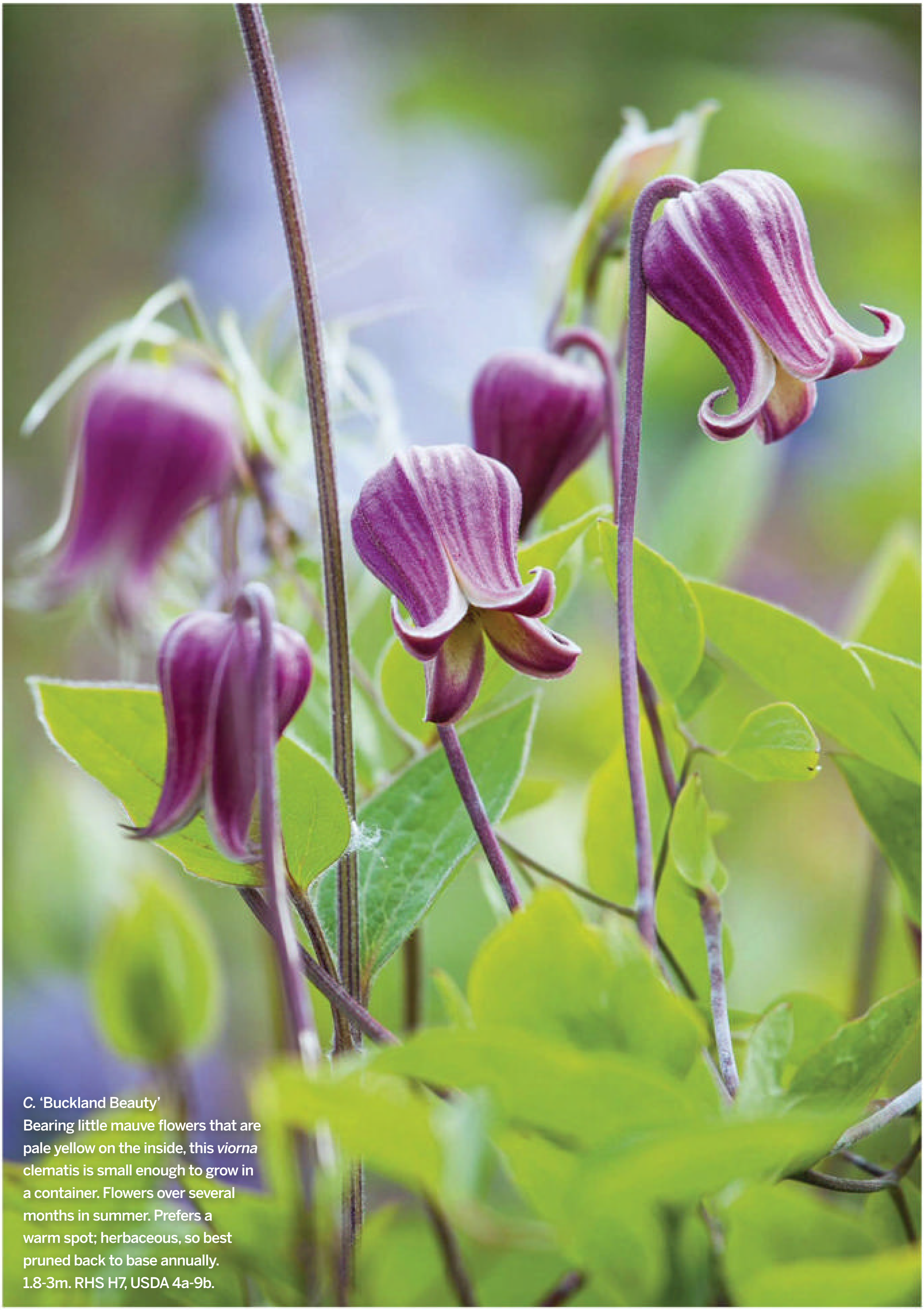
C. fusca
Dark leaves and flowers, which look almost as though they're made of felt, give this plant a subtle, somewhat sombre charm. A good clematis to let ramble through a shrub. Best in a sheltered spot with good drainage. 3m.



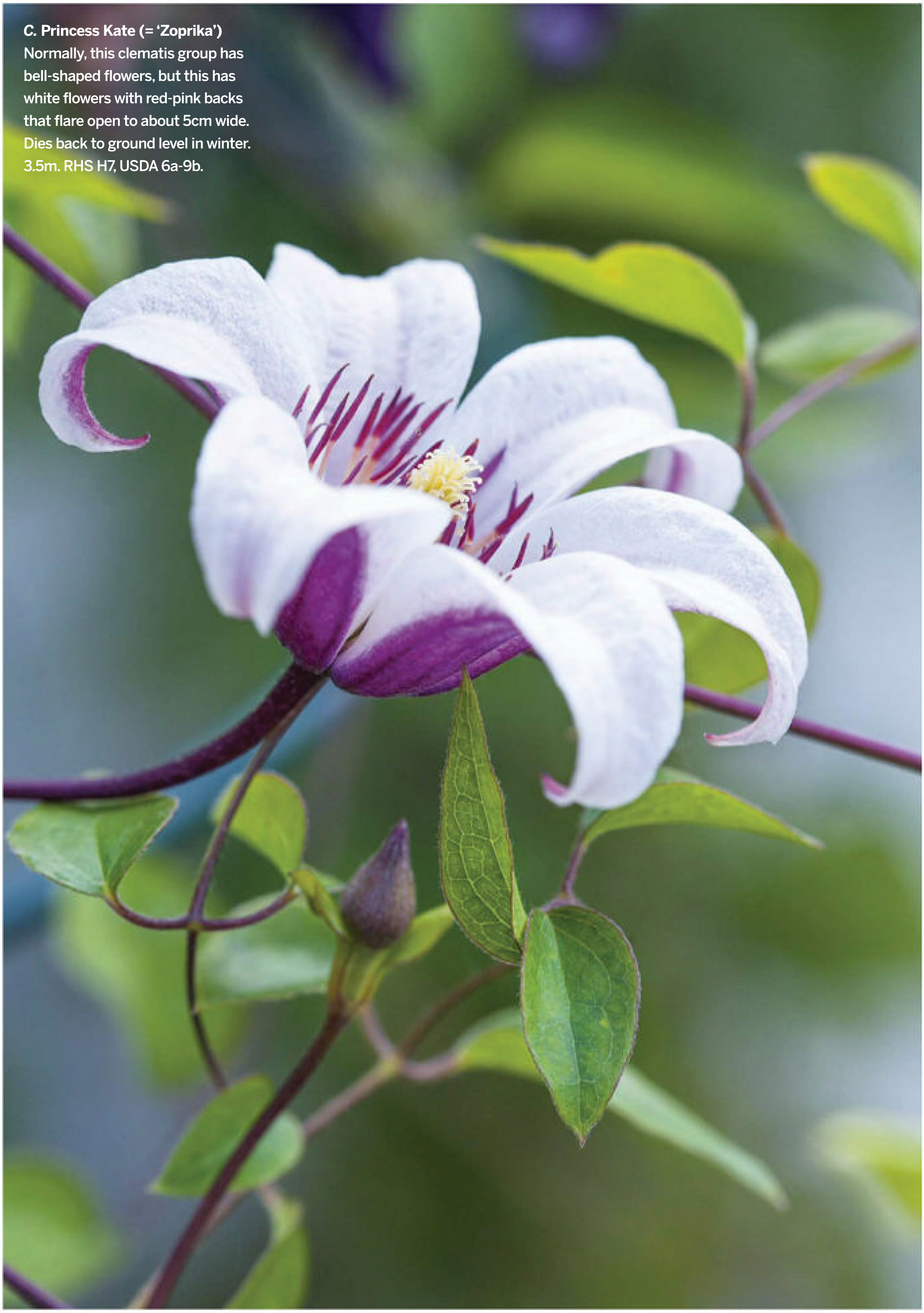
C. versicolor
This lovely North American native, one of the *C. viorna* group, can flower from late spring right through to late summer, early autumn. Its light habit means it is good for growing over shrubs. 2.5m. USDA 5b-9a.



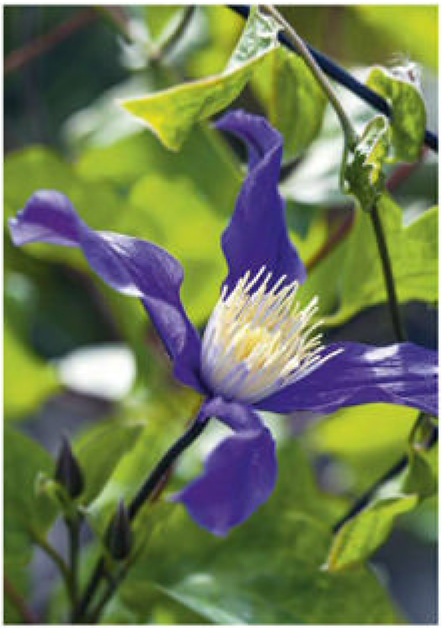
C. 'Sonnette'
A pretty British cultivar that is derived from the über-cool North American *C. viorna*. It is extremely free-flowering but luckily doesn't grow too large. It does, however, need hard pruning. 90cm-2m. RHS H7, USDA 5a-10a.



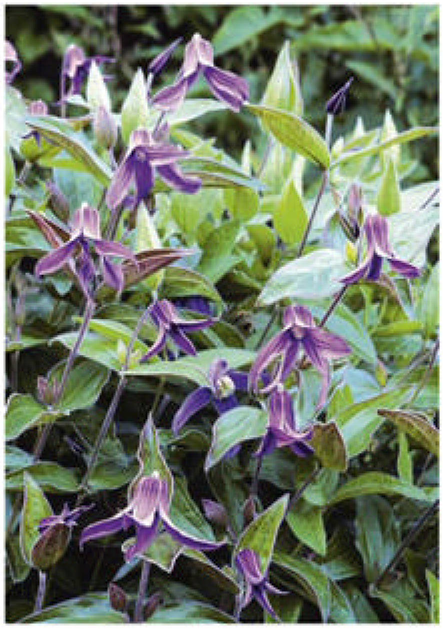
C. 'Buckland Beauty'
Bearing little mauve flowers that are pale yellow on the inside, this *viorna* clematis is small enough to grow in a container. Flowers over several months in summer. Prefers a warm spot; herbaceous, so best pruned back to base annually. 1.8-3m. RHS H7, USDA 4a-9b.



***C.* Princess Kate (= 'Zoprika')**
Normally, this clematis group has bell-shaped flowers, but this has white flowers with red-pink backs that flare open to about 5cm wide. Dies back to ground level in winter. 3.5m. RHS H7, USDA 6a-9b.

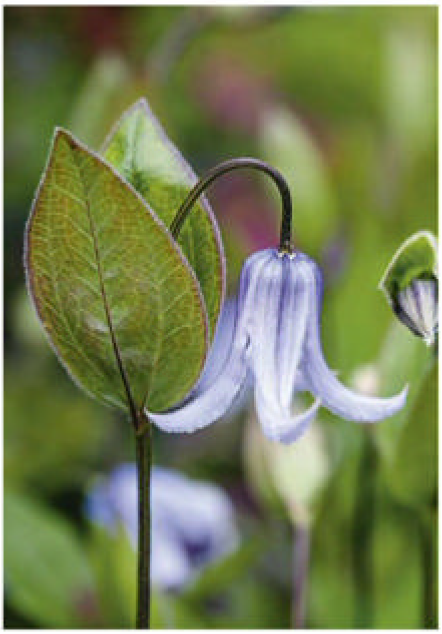


C. 'Fukuzono'
A small, non-clinging plant with lovely fresh foliage. Its open blue-purple flowers are larger than many late bloomers, and are produced over a long season. Its name is Japanese for 'happiness-garden'. 1.5m.

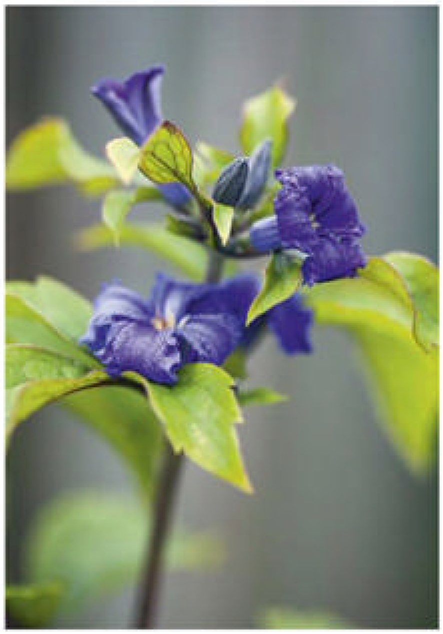


ANDREW LAWSON / THE GARDEN COLLECTION

C. x *diversifolia*
A Victorian hybrid between a self-supporting and a clinging species. It will require some support and can be allowed to ramble over other plants, such as large shrubs.
2.5m. RHS H7, USDA 4a-9b.



C. Twinkle (= 'Zotwi')
This is one of the 'integrifolia' group of clematis, which means that it does not climb, but behaves more like a perennial, without any need for support. Is sweetly scented.
1m. RHS H7.



***C. tubulosa* 'Wyevale'**
Another non-climbing species with no need for support. Its exquisitely scented flowers are produced in midsummer, with a few later on. Looks good with the first Japanese anemones or *Tricyrtis*. 1m. RHS H7, USDA 5a-9b.

Cultivation

Having seen several species in the wild growing in the most appalling ground, I am not inclined to worry about soil conditions, except to stress that they do all need good drainage. All will need sunlight for at least half the day. The yellow 'lemon-peel' varieties establish quickly, but some others may be slower. The majority will cope with high summer temperatures but go into dormancy if their roots run dry. Hardiness is not a problem for the species in cultivation. They suffer few pest and disease problems.

Nearly all flower on the current season's growth, and so pruning can be as hard as it needs to be, which allows potentially large-growing plants to be kept to much smaller sizes, or at the other extreme, in a wilder planting, they need not be pruned at all and can be allowed to run rampant.

But be warned, clematis growth is often wayward and always very brittle, so you may find when you set out to tidy up an older plant that what starts as a light prune can often turn into something more serious, leaving a growing pile of tangled debris at the bottom of the ladder. Plants on house walls are best cut back annually to a framework of permanent stout stems.

Clematis will need both horizontal and vertical support to climb a wall or fence. Wooden trellises are readily available, but you can create your own by attaching wires to walls using vine eyes. Whatever you use, each element should be no more than 20cm apart, and preferably closer lower down.

Combinations

One of the great boons of climbers is that it is often possible to grow several together, allowing for an easy succession of flower throughout the year. The clematis featured here, for example, can be allowed to scramble up alongside wisteria, early flowering *C. montana* or roses, to provide colour later in the year. The main issue is that different climbers may have varying pruning requirements, so, for example, giving younger wisteria plants the ruthless cut-back they need in summer may result in a lot of damage to the clematis. The best strategy is perhaps to plant clematis only around old and well-established wisteria and roses.

As clematis age on high walls, more of their flower will be higher up (one reason to prune), although this provides an opportunity to plant other shorter-growing plants below, such as the early flowering *C. alpina* and *C. macropetala*, or other small-growing species, such as *C. viorna* types.

Useful links

britishclematis.org.uk
The British Clematis Society.

clematisviorna.info
An overview of the *C. viorna* group.

Where to see

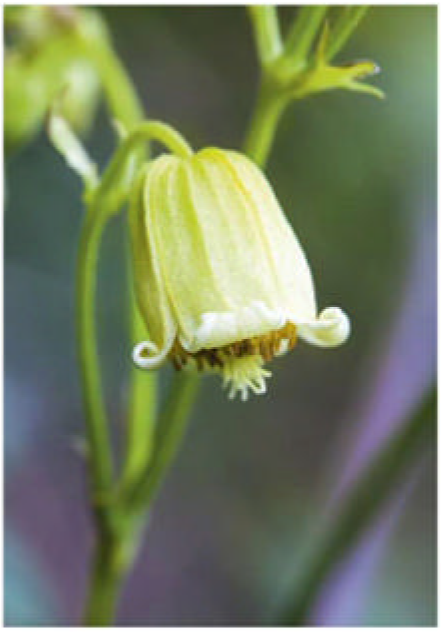
- **Clematis Corner**
  15 Plough Close, Shillingford,
  Oxfordshire OX10 7EX.
  Tel 01865 858721.
  Formerly held herbaceous national collection for 15 years. Open by appointment only on selected dates in July. Call for details.

Where to buy

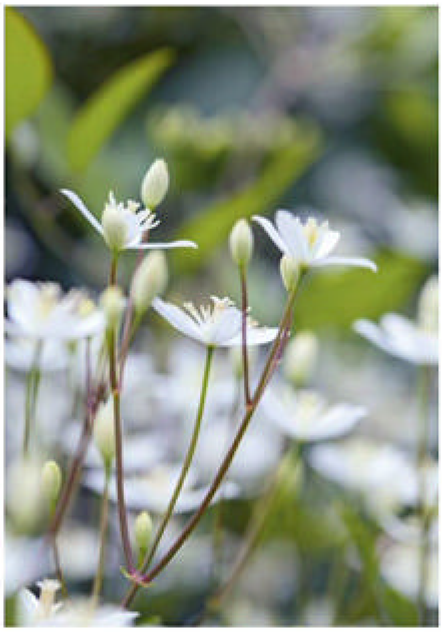
- **Hawthornes Nursery**
  Marsh Road, Hesketh Bank,
  Nr Preston, Lancashire PR4 6XT.
  Tel 01772 812379,
  hawthornes-nursery.co.uk
- **Taylors Clematis**
  Sutton Road, Sutton,
  Askern, Doncaster,
  South Yorkshire DN69JZ.
  Tel 01302 700716,
  taylorsclematis.co.uk
  Visitors by appointment only.
- **Thorncroft Clematis**
  The Lings, Reymerston, Norwich,
  Norfolk NR9 4QG.
  Tel 01953 850407,
  thorncroftclematis.co.uk

Reader offer

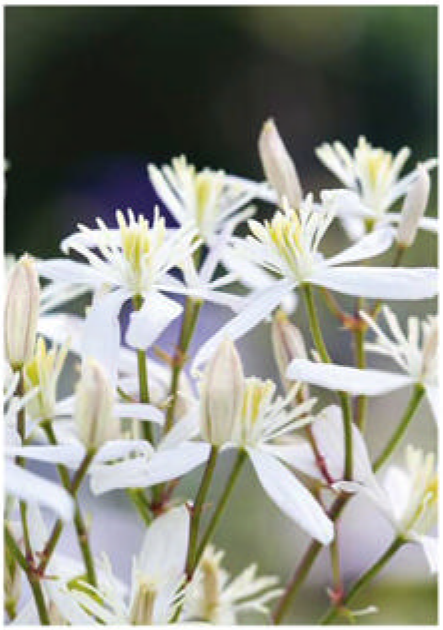
To buy a selection of the clematis featured here from Thorncroft Clematis nursery, at a discount of 15 per cent, please **turn to page 113**.



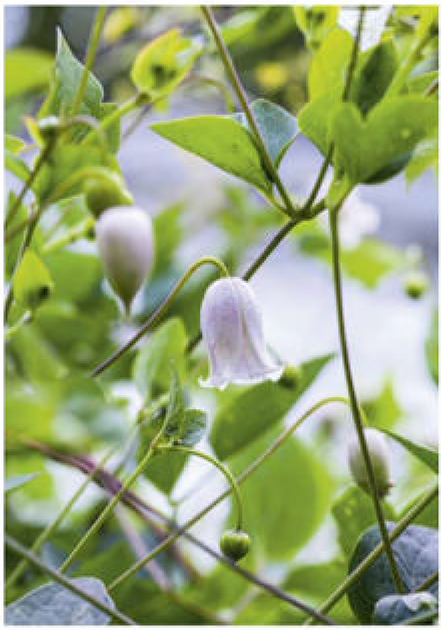
C. rehderiana
Tiny, sweetly scented flowers are produced in large quantities in mid to late summer. Vigorous, it will eventually reach quite a height, but can be kept small with an annual hard prune. 7m. RHS H6, USDA 6a-9b.



***C.* 'Pamela'**
Bred in Canada, this is another non-climbing, sprawling cultivar. It is best grown through large perennials or into a shrub. Masses of scented flowers are produced throughout the summer. 2m. RHS H7.

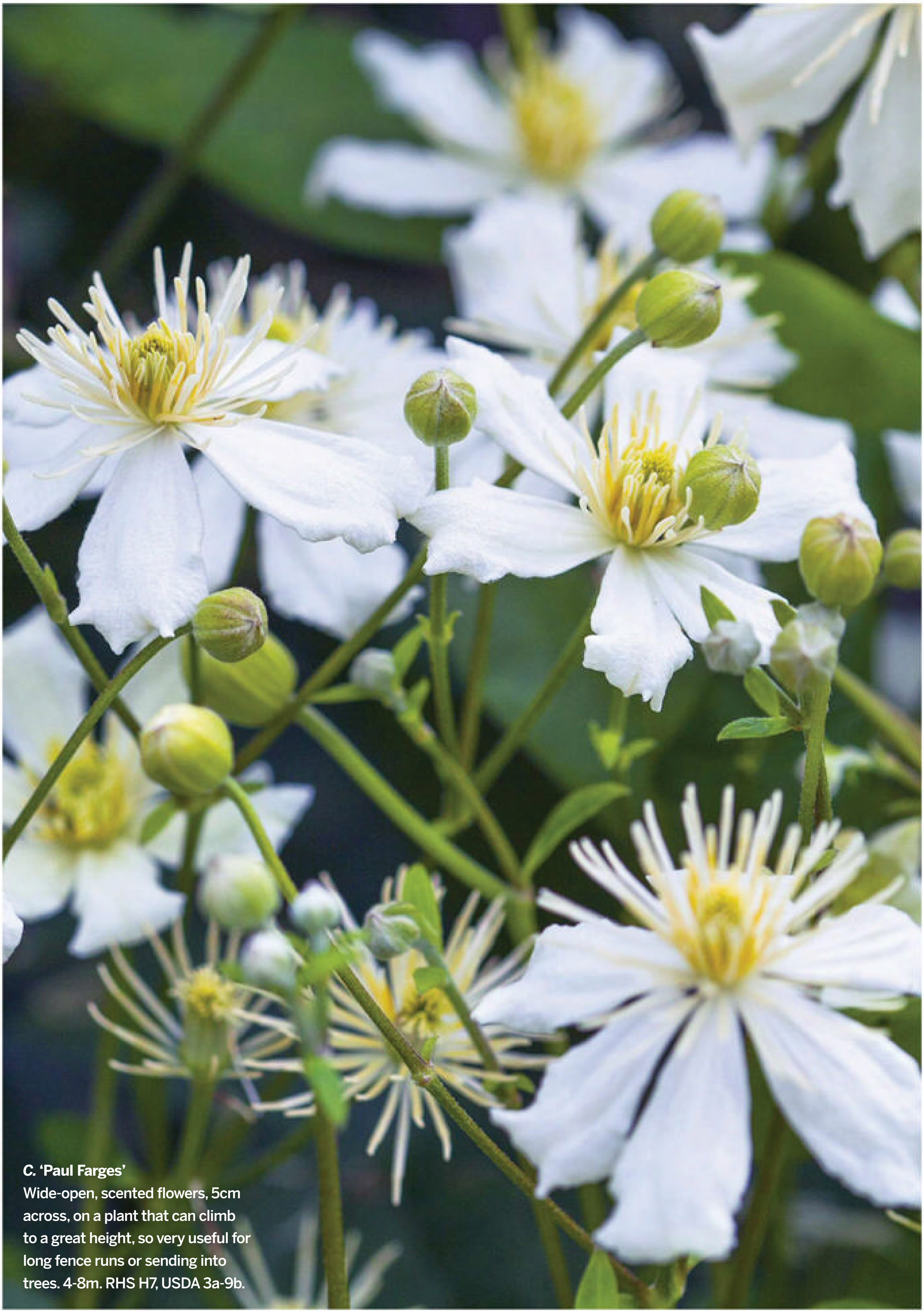


***C.* 'Sweet Scentsation'**
Producing a profusion of small, scented flowers throughout the summer, this plant grows to a medium height. It's a new cultivar, of rather mysterious origin, that needs a hard annual prune. 2.5m. RHS H7.



***C.* 'Kaiu'**
This cultivar, bred from *C. viticella*, was raised in the cool climes of Kaiu in Estonia, so is pretty hardy. Its small, nodding flowers open to a very pale purple but fade to a creamy white. Needs hard pruning. 2m. RHS H7.

MANY THANKS TO CLEMATIS CORNER IN OXFORDSHIRE WHERE THE MAJORITY OF CLEMATIS FOR THIS FEATURE WERE PHOTOGRAPHED



C. 'Paul Farges'
Wide-open, scented flowers, 5cm across, on a plant that can climb to a great height, so very useful for long fence runs or sending into trees. 4-8m. RHS H7, USDA 3a-9b.

Paul Gazerwitz & Tommaso del Buono

The design partnership, whose work is characterised by calm elegance, discuss friendship, collaboration and the challenges of large-scale projects

WORDS **ANNIE GATTI** PORTRAIT **CHARLIE HOPKINSON**

The words you might use to describe a typical del Buono Gazerwitz garden – elegant, calm, formal yet individualistic – could equally apply to this pair of landscape architects themselves. Both slim, shaven-headed, crisply dressed, and unusually courteous with each other, on first encounter they seem almost like peas in a pod. It's no surprise to discover that they were born just eight months apart. Clearly a major element in the success of their professional partnership is the fact that they get on so well. Not only have they run their landscape architecture practice together for 15 years but since 2007 they have co-owned a bolthole in Suffolk with a one-acre, quintessentially English garden, using it on alternate weekends with their respective partners.

Although they grew up on opposite sides of the Atlantic, they share a passion for plants and for structured spaces. Paul was born in New York city and moved to Long Island as a child, where he first made tray gardens with wild flowers and graduated to landscaping the whole of his parents' large garden; Tommaso's landscape was the olive trees, lavenders and irises of gardens on the hills outside his native Florence. Both studied landscape architecture and when they met in London more than 25 years ago they quickly became friends. Although temperamentally they are different – Tommaso is more excitable and extrovert while Paul, who insists that his business partner is more eloquent, is content to be in the background – their skills as designers are equally matched. "Once I went for an interview in a practice where Paul was already working," reveals Tommaso. "They said, 'We are very interested in you but you have exactly the same skills as someone we have just hired called Paul Gazerwitz'."

In the late 1980s Paul joined Tommaso at Arabella Lennox-Boyd's practice and it was there that the pair decided to strike out on their own. They threw themselves into the challenge of public competitions – their design for the Princess Diana Memorial in Hyde Park, based on a series of floating islands on the Serpentine, was shortlisted – and quickly established a reputation for richly textured and beautifully detailed gardens in London, from small, walled yards in Shoreditch to more expansive villas in Holland Park. Initially they worked on projects together but as the practice grew they divided up the work. "Our desks are opposite each other," explains Tommaso, "so we are always aware of what each of us is doing."

Do they ever clash or argue? "We obviously have differences of opinion," says Paul, "but we never have huge rows. We know each other so well that I can tell if there's something bothering Tom and I'll say 'Tell me about it.' We can then get it on the table, discuss it, sort it and move on."

Now they have a number of large projects, especially in Europe, and they both relish the challenge of these often topographically demanding designs, and selecting the plants that will work for them. A garden in the Caribbean has proved to be a steep learning curve. "Everything grows very quickly and it's easy for things to get swamped," explains Tommaso. "Your planting has to be simpler, and in bigger groupings." They are collaborating once more on a large, steep site in the South of France, a former holiday village. "We've designed this enormous and fantastic water cascade, which links the whole site. We've never done anything on this scale before, but it's exciting."

Their 2014 Chelsea garden for *The Telegraph* gave them the opportunity to show off the key elements of a del Buono Gazerwitz garden (their 2008 Chelsea garden for Daylesford had been designed to a tight brief). The initial plans showed clipped evergreens, lawn, roof-trained trees and, says Tommaso, there was concern that it would be "a bit boring". But, he explains without a hint of *braggadocio*, "I knew we would do it beautifully, I knew it was going to work." The doubters had not considered the impact of the duo's meticulous detailing – the water feature went through several versions and mock ups until they achieved exactly the effervescent effect they wanted from the falling water.

New York's Paley Park, with the simplicity of its waterfall and grid of *Gleditsia* trees, is a shared inspiration but mostly, they say, they are influenced by everyday visual elements, by their travels, by interiors. "Just this morning, walking to the Underground," says Paul, "I saw the intense auburn of oak leaves sunlit against a building of almost exactly the same colour. It was a luminous example of nature in harmony with the built environment." Tommaso smiles with evident enjoyment at Paul's observation. ☐

USEFUL INFORMATION

Del Buono Gazerwitz Landscape Architecture, 59 Charlotte Road,
London EC2A 3QT. Tel 020 7613 1122, delbuono-gazerwitz.co.uk

NEXT MONTH Landscape architect Todd Longstaffe-Gowan.

> *"We know each other so well that I can tell if there's something bothering Tom and we can then get it on the table, discuss it, sort it and move on"*

Northern lights

Using a colourful palette of deep-blues, mauves, pinks, purples and clarets, the contemporary garden of William Moore and John Wilson provides the perfect foil to the often steel-grey skies of the Yorkshire Dales

WORDS **CAROLINE BECK** PHOTOGRAPHS **MARIANNE MAJERUS**

In brief

Name Cow Close Cottage.
Where Yorkshire Dales, near Harrogate.
Size Three acres, although only two thirds of an acre is gardened; one third is wild-flower meadow, and the rest is orchard and paddocks.
Soil Loam and clay on gritstone.
Climate Sheltered from the prevailing winds by hedges, but can be cold.
Hardiness rating USDA 8.

Pinks and purples are the dominant colours of this curved border around the lawn, featuring *Stachys officinalis* 'Hummelo' in the foreground with *Salvia nemorosa* 'Ostfriesland' and the whiskered seedheads of *Hordeum jubatum* 'Early Pink' behind.

Neither William nor John has ever done a gardening course… but they both have an instinct for beauty

Doing the dishes at Cow Close cottage can be a protracted affair. The kitchen sink looks right over a garden of broad curved beds dense with spikes of tall perennials, bounded by a mosaic of fields and dry-stone walls. Visitors often remark that it's a wonder that any domestic work ever gets done given the distracting view. The garden is relatively recent, the creation of William Moore and John Wilson, who bought the house, a former farm labourer's cottage and barn, in 2008 when they were both still working full-time in East Yorkshire. For a year until they retired they were weekend visitors unable to do much apart from observe, but that enforced wait gave them the time to get to know the land thoroughly before they stuck a spade in the ground.

The Yorkshire Dales with their wide skies and long horizons are seductive but anyone who lives or works here is inclined to be more prosaic. Big skies mean big weather, wind, snow, flattening hail in spring and biting cold, all of which can crush the spirits of the most enthusiastic gardener. William and John, both northerners, had no illusions. William, a farmer's son, has always gardened and as a student John once dug up roses to plant onions and potatoes. Neither has ever done a gardening course, and William concedes that some of his past mistakes still make him wince, but they both have an instinct for beauty and hands made for practical work, resulting in a garden that takes elements of the contouring landscape and enhances them. There are few straight lines here, and the rich summer planting is ▷

William and John once came home to find a neighbour showing some enthusiastic visitors round their garden

▷ like a supercharged version of the surrounding limestone meadows.

Paradoxically the garden's origins were marked by drought. They cut out and planted their first large bed in April 2009 but when the month ended so did the rain. "We were still living in East Yorkshire, an hour and a half away, so we finished work, hot-footed over here, watered the bed, grabbed something to eat, then drove back again." The plants survived and rewarded them with the kind of display that makes all gardeners want to push on. William has had a long relationship with Dove Cottage Nursery near Halifax run by Stephen and Kim Rogers, rightly famed for their unusual, super-tough perennials and grasses, challenging the misconception that the northern climate means predictable plants. The couple helped in the layout and design, encouraging William and John to be bold, using the rich colours of plants such as *Lythrum virgatum* 'Dropmore Purple', *Veronicastrum virginicum* 'Lavendelturm' and *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Blackfield' to amplify the moody colours of the clouds and sky. And the wind, never really still despite hedges and walls, moves through the foliage and the stems like water, so the garden is always in motion, always whispering.

It's become something of a celebrity in the village. William and John once came home to find a neighbour showing some enthusiastic visitors round and maybe it was this, as well as a friend's observation that the garden had the holy trinity of 'S' – sloping, south-facing and with a stream – that made them consider opening it under the National Gardens Scheme (NGS) last year. They divvy up the labour between them depending on their disposition. John, a keen cook who hates waste, does the vegetable garden, keeps his bees and does the mowing. William tends his flowers, weeds the borders and has recently sown a wildflower meadow.

In high summer it's an exuberant place framed by mature trees and broad fields, and as you leave the main road and wind up to the hamlet, your eyes are drawn to the garden as it tumbles down the dale. The view is opened up considerably by a newly built ha-ha replacing a hawthorn hedge, although in the early days the ha-ha was rather more of a shock than surprise to their labrador Bella who went tearing down the lawn and straight over the top. "No one's fallen over it yet," says John, "although we had a garden party soon after its completion, with about 40 people standing around on the edge with glasses of wine, and I did get a bit nervous." But the couple think that their recent wild-flower meadow beyond the ha-ha will make a soft landing for anyone so wowed by the garden that it makes them unsteady on their feet. ☐

USEFUL INFORMATION

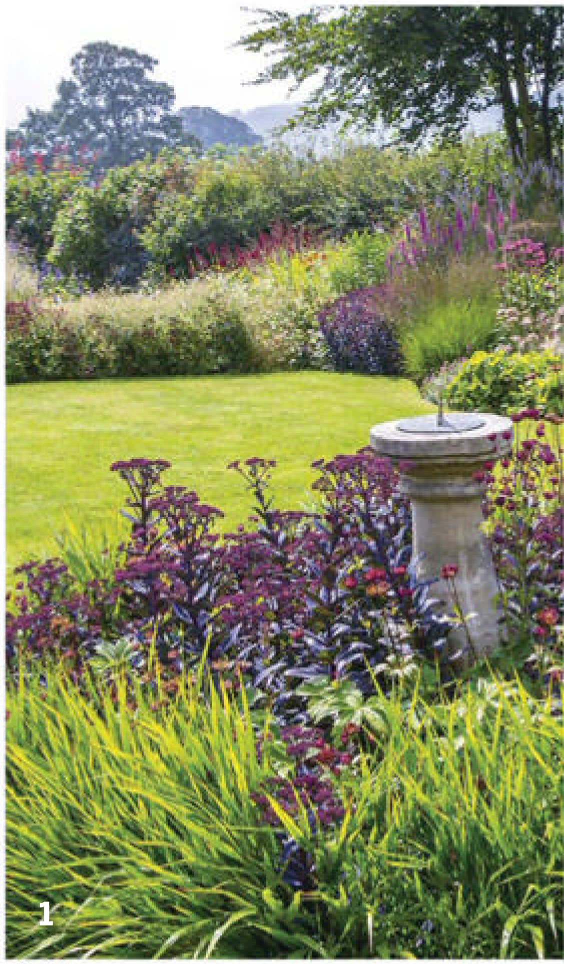
Address Cow Close Cottage, Stripe Lane, Hartwith, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG3 3EY.

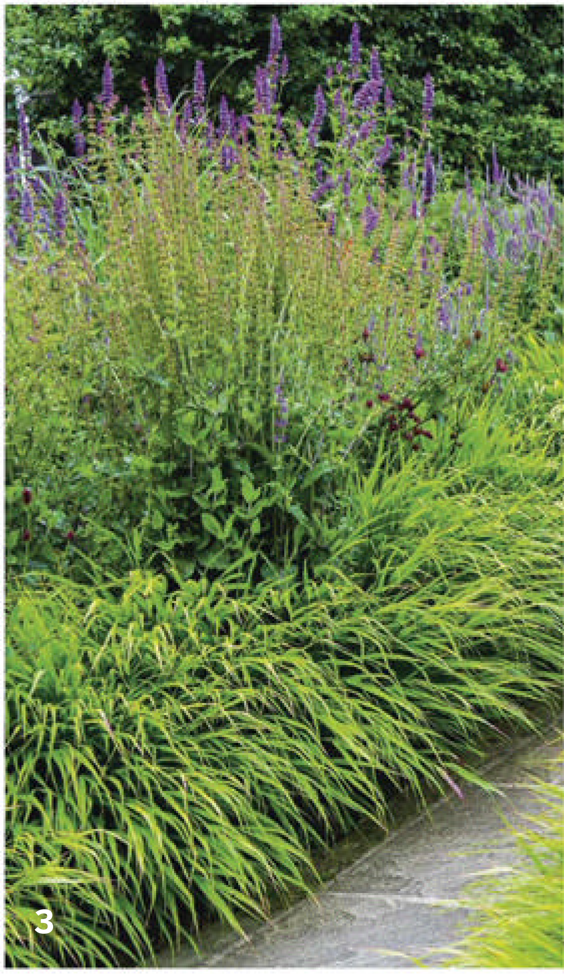
Tel 01423 779813.

Email cowclose1@btinternet.com

Open under NGS, 26 July, 11am-4.30pm. Visitors by appointment June to August.

Turn over for four of Cow Close's plant combinations ▷





1 A sundial in the main lawn is surrounded by the rich, red foliage of *Sedum* 'José Aubergine' dotted with maroon heads of *Astrantia* 'Hadspen Blood'. Both contrast nicely with the fresh-green of *Hakonechloa macra* for edging.

2 A colourful mix of *Astilbe chinensis* var. *taquetii* 'Purpurlanze', *Astilbe* 'Granat' and *Astilbe* Elizabeth Bloom (='Eliblo') enjoy their damp position in this border close to the stream.

3 On either side of the narrow York stone path that leads from the cottage, a frothy sea of *Hakonechloa macra* provides a billowing edge to an abundance of cottage-style planting.

4 In summer, the borders surrounding the lawn next to the terrace are a riot of pink and purples, contrasting with the tall, yellow spires of *Eremurus stenophyllus* in the far background.

2

4

Colour combinations from Cow Close

Clockwise from top left

Misty morning

The purple spires of *Veronicastrum virginicum* 'Fascination' **(1)**, mauve-pink, shaggy flowers of *Monarda* 'Violet Queen' **(2)** and the slim spires of *Salvia nemorosa* 'Caradonna' **(3)** contrast well with the pink of *Echinacea purpurea* 'Pink Glow' **(4)**, its colour muted by a veil of the wispy grass *Hordeum jubatum* **(5)**.

Dreamy spires

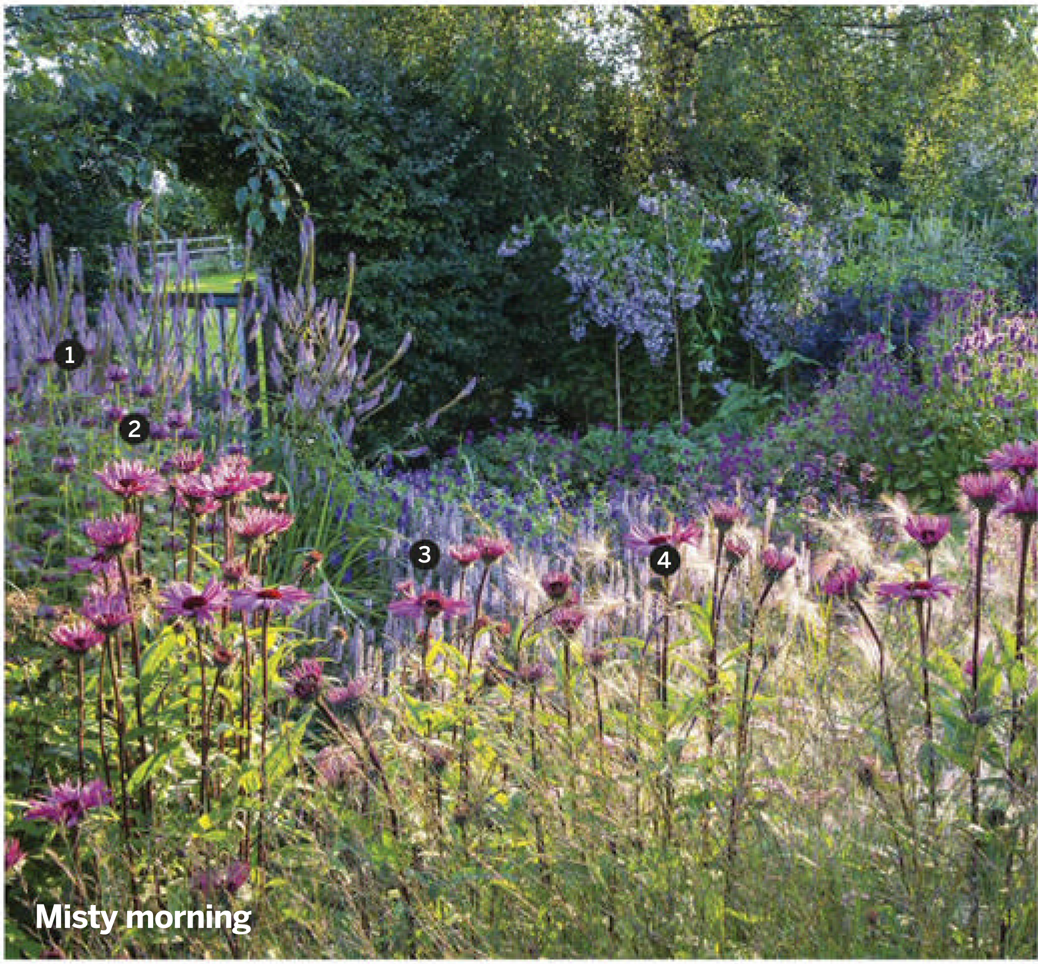
The pale lilac of *Veronicastrum virginicum* 'Lavendelturm' **(1)** creates a striking contrast to the red of *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Fat Domino' **(2)** and the rich orange hues of the *Helenium* 'Sahin's Early Flowerer' **(3)** interspersed among them. To the right the pink of *Lythrum virgatum* 'The Rocket' **(4)** and purple of *Agastache* 'Blackadder' **(5)** help to emphasise the richness of the *Persicaria*, the focal point for this section of the border.

Soft focus

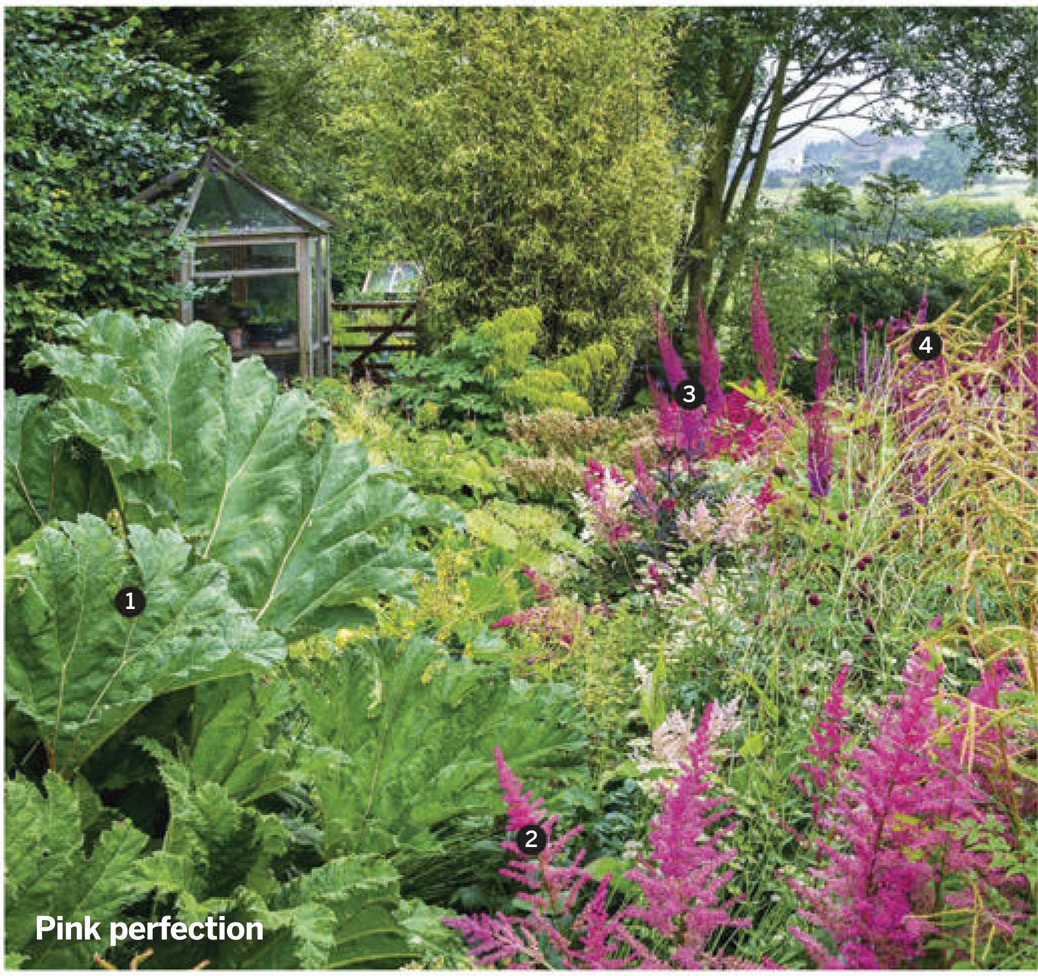
The vivid spikes of the aptly named *Lythrum virgatum* 'The Rocket' **(1)** are softened by the yellow of *Eremurus stenophyllus* **(2)**, the paler pinks of *Sedum telephium* Atropurpureum Group 'Karfunkelstein' **(3)** and *Echinacea purpurea* 'Pink Glow' **(4)**, with its almost black stems. This combination works well with the acid-yellow flowers of the self-seeded fennel, *Foeniculum vulgare* **(5)**.

Pink perfection

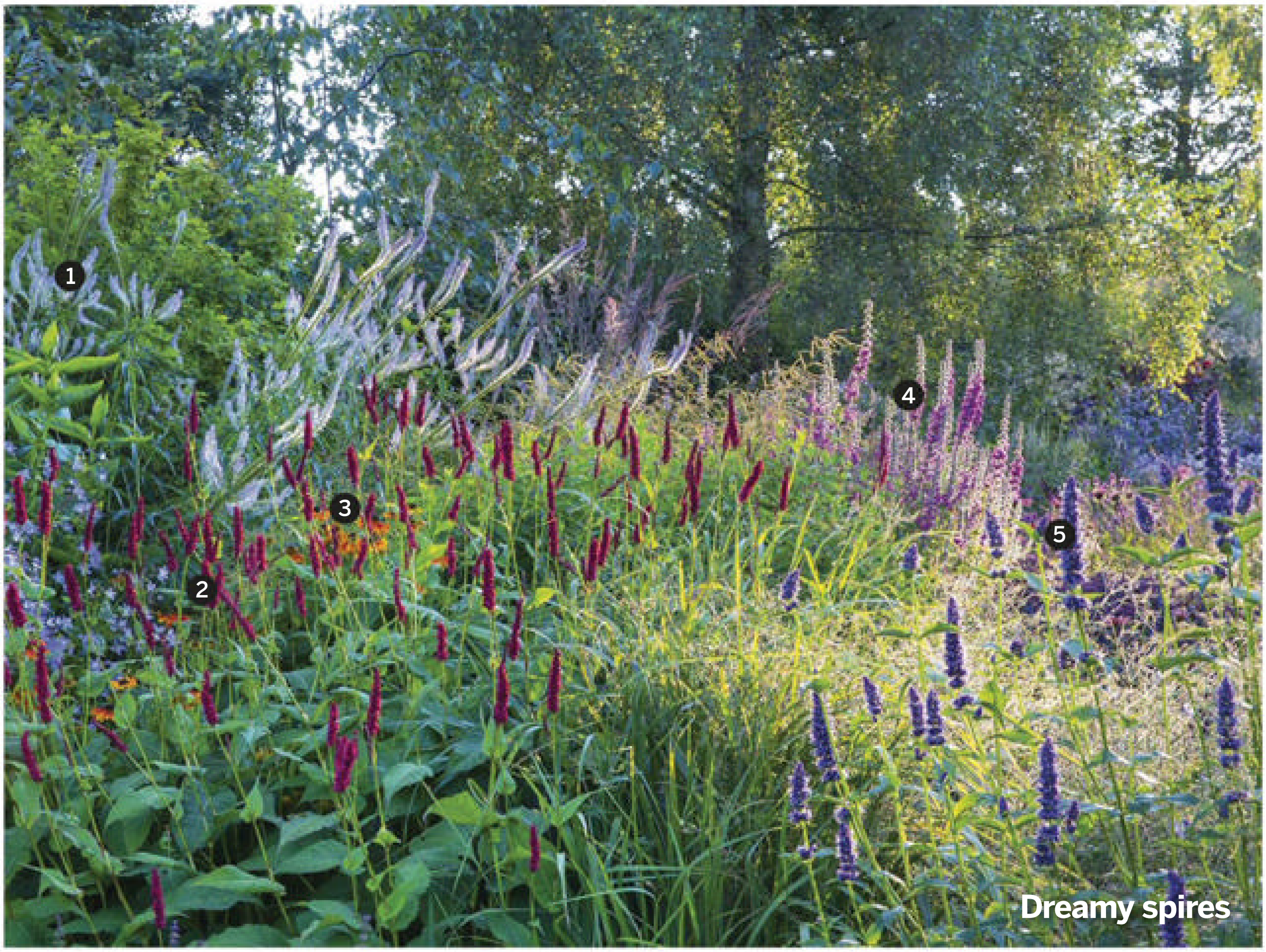
The striking foliage of *Gunnera manicata* **(1)** sets the tone for this lushly planted border that runs down to the stream. It's damper than others and is the ideal home for the pinks of *Astilbe chinensis* var. *taquetii* 'Purpurlanze' **(2)** and *Astilbe* 'Granat' **(3),** which thrive in the moist soil. To the right are the creamy panicles of *Aruncus* 'Horatio' **(4)** and the claret thimbles of *Sanguisorba officinalis* 'Martin's Mulberry'**(5)**.



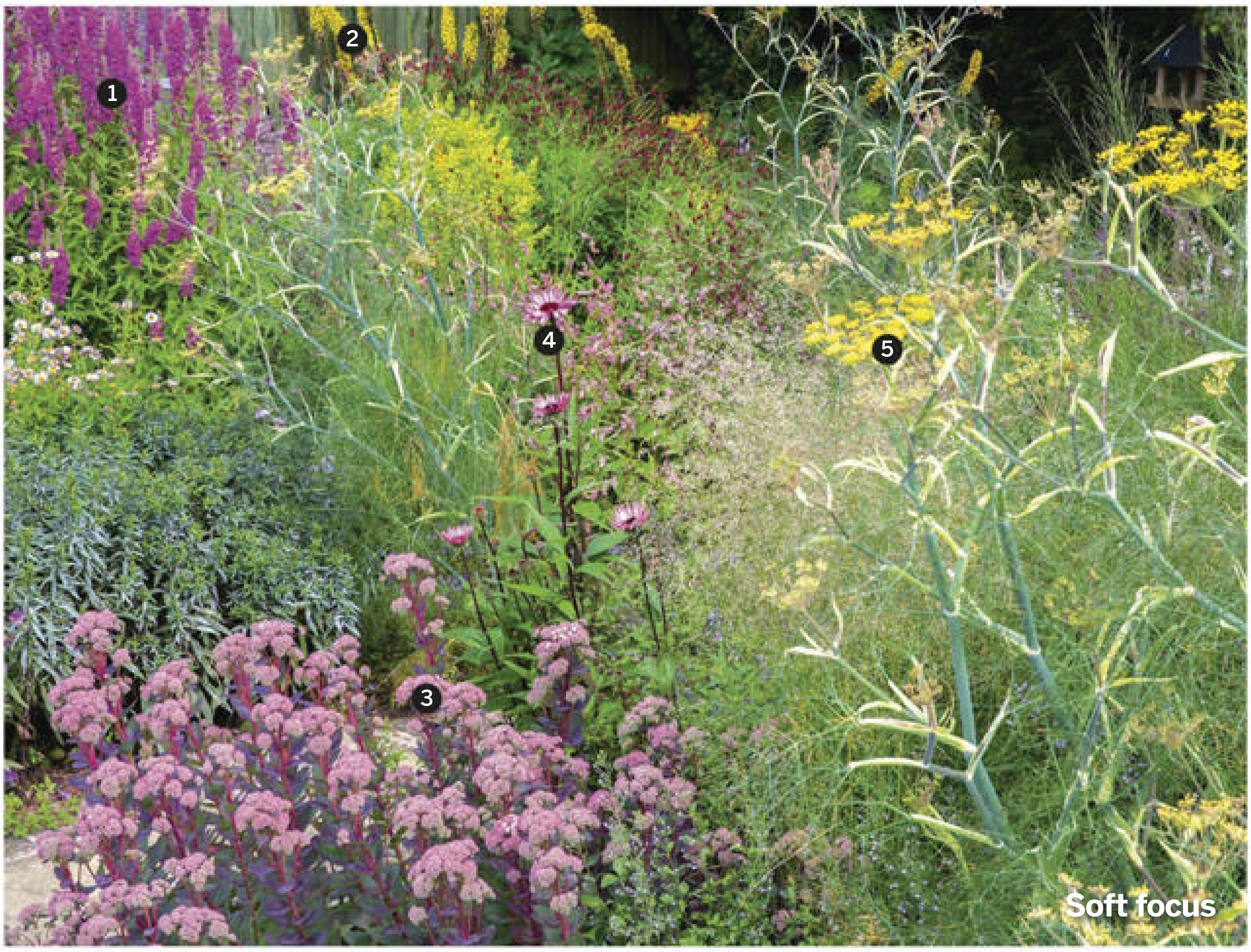
Misty morning



Pink perfection



Dreamy spires



Soft focus

Welcome To The
GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED
Film Night

In the night garden

Make the most of your garden and the warm summer evenings by hosting a magical movie screening – just add popcorn

WORDS **ROSANNA MORRIS** PHOTOGRAPHS **SEAN MALYON**
STYLING **ROSANNA MORRIS AND NIKI GOSS**

What could be more enchanting than hosting a movie night under the stars to make the most of your garden in summer?

Imagine the scene. It's a balmy summer's evening. Festoon lights twinkle and bunting flutters in the branches of a magnolia tree. A fire crackles. The warming scent of your *Rosa* 'Gertrude Jekyll' mingled with that of *Jasminum officinale* and freshly cut grass lingers in the air. The score for *Moulin Rouge* plays out across your manicured lawn, where friends and family are lounging on blankets and cushions, nibbling popcorn.

Sitting in the garden at night during the warmer months is magical, and it's a time to really appreciate all the hard work you've put into your borders and beds throughout the year. And what could be more enchanting than hosting a movie night under the stars to make the most of your garden in summer?

But you need to pull it off with pizzazz if you're going to keep everyone smiling. This gathering should give your guests the full outdoor summer screening experience, and feel so stylish and special that they'll be longing for an invitation every year. Preparation and the right equipment is everything.

Angela Gareh held a cinema night in her Bristol garden last year. "We love our summer entertaining and our annual garden party has become a little highlight in the year," she says. "We thought a cinema night would be perfect, although we did get a little carried away and it was more like a wedding with the amount of detail that went into it. Our guests loved it and the weather was glorious."

First of all, you need to transform an area of your garden into a cosy living room for the evening – a few chairs scattered about will not cut the mustard. And you don't want your guests getting cold or eaten by midges, either. What's more, you need to keep seating quite low so everyone can see the screen. Cushions, blankets, deckchairs and rugs are ideal – and will keep everyone warm if the

▷

Technical help

You've sorted the seating and the snacks but what about showing the actual film? What equipment do you need? It's all about the projector, says Marc Langley of ProjectorPoint.

- **"Brightness is key,"** says Marc. "Regular home cinema projectors are too dull for outdoor use. The projector will be competing against daylight so it's important to use one designed for outdoor screenings with a minimum of 4,000 lumens." Marc recommends that the screening area is somewhere shady, which will make the image brighter, otherwise you may have to wait until it is pitch dark for a good picture. Bear in mind that sunset during the summer can be around 10pm.
- **Outdoor projectors do, however, cost more, because they have stronger lamps** in them to overcome any light pollution. If you don't want to fork out huge amounts of money, you can hire the equipment, or find second-hand projectors on sites such as eBay. It's also worth considering that replacement bulbs can cost upwards of £100 too. The more powerful the lamp, the more it costs to replace. The average bulb lasts around 2,000 hours. To get the best life and brightness from your projector lamp, make sure it never overheats and clean the air filters regularly.
- **When buying a projector, ask about the aspect ratio** because the picture from newer models may be the wrong shape (widescreen) for conventional screens.
- **If you're keen to use a tablet to play the movie,** you will need an HDMI adapter. With all the equipment, don't forget you'll need a long extension lead, suitable for outdoor use.

The kit

You will need:

- Projector
- Screen
- Decent speakers (with amplifier)
- DVD player or laptop
- HDMI lead to connect the projector to the DVD player or laptop

3 of the best projectors

CHRISTIE LHD700 Approx £9,000

- **Resolution** 1920 x 1080p
- **Brightness** 7,000 lumens

This high-end projector is so powerful you can even use it during the day.

OPTOMA EH415E £1,056

- **Resolution** 1920 x 1080p
- **Brightness** 4,200 lumens

A mid-range projector, at a good price.

BENQ MH740 £776.40

- **Resolution** 1920 x 1080p
- **Brightness** 4,000 lumens

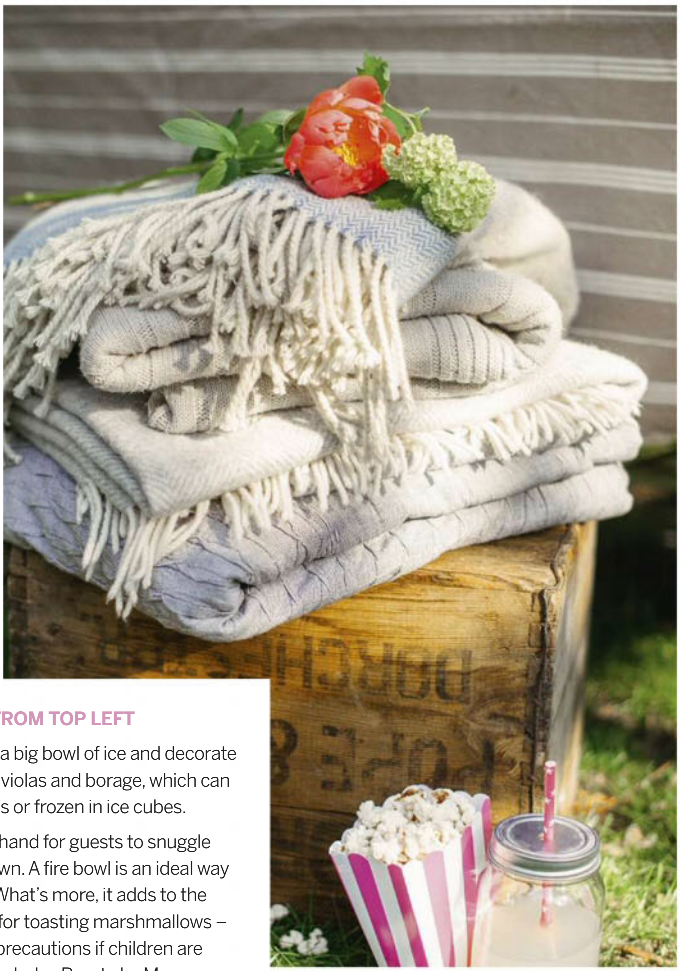
A reasonably priced model that is nice and bright.

TIP Remember to house the projector and laptop or DVD player somewhere dry, such as an open-fronted crate, to protect it from moisture.

Projector stockists

- **AV Parts Master** 0800 170 7012, avpartsmaster.co.uk
- **ProjectorPoint** 0808 278 4143, projectorpoint.co.uk
- **Richer Sounds** 0333 900 0094, richersounds.com

LORINA
PINK CITRUS LEMONADE
PRESTIGE
750 mL
Harry Brompton's
ALCOHOLIC ICE TEA



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

Keep bottled drinks cool in a big bowl of ice and decorate with edible flowers, such as violas and borage, which can also be added to drinks or frozen in ice cubes.

Have lots of blankets to hand for guests to snuggle up in when the sun goes down. A fire bowl is an ideal way to create extra warmth. What's more, it adds to the atmosphere and is perfect for toasting marshmallows – just take the necessary precautions if children are present. Blanket pile includes Bronte by Moon herringbone grey throw, £89, John Lewis.

String bunting through trees and along walls to create a party atmosphere. White voile bunting, £18.50, Cox & Cox.

Create a comfy and stylish outdoor living room with piles of cushions on plastic-backed rugs. Choose a sloping part of your garden and use low furniture, such as deckchairs and old crates as tables, so everyone can see the screen. Deckchairs, £135, Thornback & Peel; velvet and linen cushions, similar at Cox & Cox.

A few pots of lavender or clipped box placed along the bottom of the screen will add a touch of theatricality

temperatures drop. Having places to rest drinks and candles (citronella will help keep the insects at bay), such as old apple crates, is another consideration.

Attention to detail and thoughtfulness always goes down well at a party and this is a chance to show off your hosting skills. Don't worry about going too mad with food, as guests will only expect snacks. Think cute bowls of popcorn, sweets, mini cupcakes and savoury nibbles. Have bottles of beer and soft drinks chilling in a bucket of ice and a summer cocktail, or home-made lemonade or elderflower cordial that you can serve in those on-trend drinks jars with pretty patterned straws.

Lighting is also key. Festoon lights look attractive and also give off enough brightness so no one will trip over in the dark. Fairy lights (plug-in, solar or battery powered) draped among the foliage and lanterns dotted along pathways (try tea lights in jam jars) add to the magic. Keep decorations simple, as the garden and lights will do most of the work, however, bunting strung from tree to tree or along a fence or wall always looks good.

No doubt, you'll want to show your garden off at its best, so don't hold back with plants and flowers. Think about moving planted containers close to the seating and food areas, and display home-grown flowers in jam jars and vases. A few pots of lavender or clipped box placed along the bottom of the projector screen will add a touch of theatricality.

Then there's the technical side. Can you get away with stringing a white bed sheet between two trees for a screen, or do you need something more sturdy? Which projector is best? And can you do it without spending a small fortune?

See right and previous pages for the *Gardens Illustrated* guide to throwing a garden cinema party, packed with ideas and tips to help you pull it off with aplomb. All you'll then need to do is design some invites. And pray for good weather.

Special thanks to

- **Angela Gareh, Magnolia Hill Flowers and Events** 07726 325274, magnoliahill.co.uk
- **Bramble & Wild** 01373 473788, brambleandwild.com
- **Maddocks Farm Organics** 07935 268744, maddocksfarmorganics.co.uk
- **Portable Pictures** 07968 109985, portablepictures.co.uk
- **The Walled Garden at Mells** 01373 812597, thewalledgardenatmells.co.uk

Product stockists

- **Cox & Cox** 0844 858 0744, coxandcox.co.uk
- **John Lewis** 0345 604 9049, johnlewis.com
- **Loop the Loop** 01873 812524, looptheloop.co.uk
- **My Little Day** +33 (0)175 443380, en.mylittleday.fr
- **Thornback & Peel** 020 7831 2878, thornbackandpeel.co.uk

NOTE

If you have concerns about copyright law or licences, do not fear. You do not need a licence to screen a movie for free for family and friends at home. However, do check if you're planning a public event (commercial and non-commercial). Visit filmbank.co.uk for more information.

Projector screen

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN

- The type of screen you make depends on your garden; it works best if you can use a wall or trees for support. A screen that is easily movable and will roll up until next year is ideal. You could simply string a white bed sheet up between two trees, but there is always the risk that a light breeze will cause havoc.

  If you do want to use a sheet, it is important that it is pulled taut. If you have nothing to attach it to, it's simple to make a freestanding screen:
- Take a double sheet and sew a sleeve on either end so a length of pine dowel (the screen's legs) can be slotted into them. Sew up the top ends so the sheet does not fall down. You may want to reduce the size of the sheet and hem it to create a more rectangular shape.
- Buy two pine dowels measuring 2.8cm x 240cm. Cut down to 215cm, which should leave enough dowel to go into the ground and keep the sheet off the grass. Drill a small hole in the top of each one for a guy rope, made of strong twine and tent pegs. Slot the dowels into the sheet and tie a guy rope through the top of each one (cutting a small hole in the sheet and passing the rope through the drilled hole).
- Put your screen in position. Get two people on either end to pull it taut and, using an offcut piece of dowel, hammer a hole into the ground for each dowel leg. Push the screen legs into these holes and secure the guy ropes.
- A sturdier option is to sew together pieces of white blackout blind material and staple lengths of wood to the top and bottom. If you have a wall, you can attach hooks to the top piece of wood and attach it to vine eyes on the wall.

BUY OR HIRE

New portable movie projection screens start at around £100-£150. Or just hire one – Portable Pictures (see left) rents out the whole caboodle: projector, screen, DVD player, amplifiers, speakers, chairs and a popcorn machine to boot.

Remember, film parties can be noisy so do warn your neighbours in advane, or maybe think about inviting them along.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

Fairy lights and festoon lights bring a feeling of festival and work particularly well strung in trees or through shrubs such as box. Naked wire lights, £45, Cox & Cox.

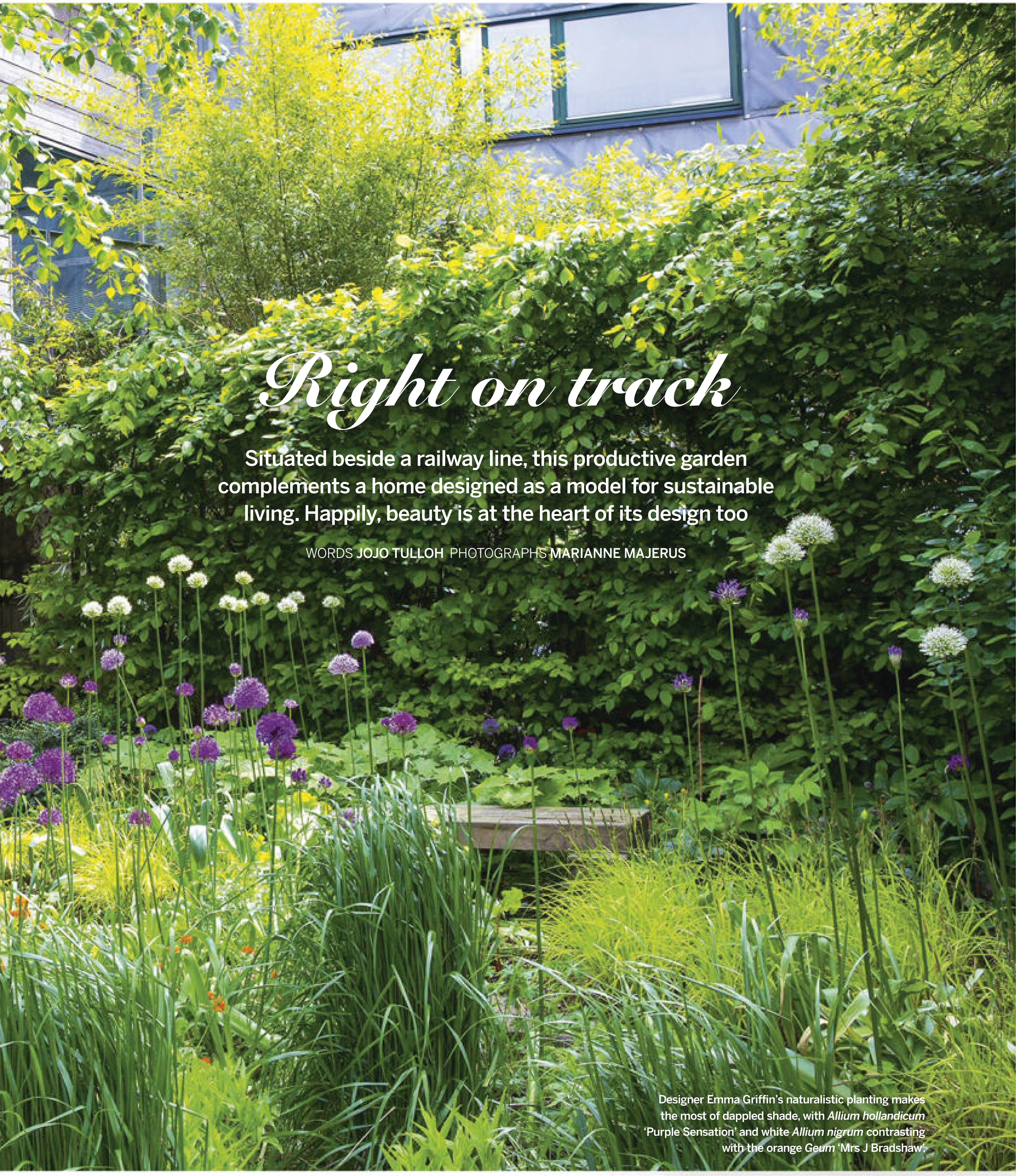
Food can be simple. Popcorn is obviously a must: present it in stripy popcorn boxes alongside stripy cupcake liners filled with nibbles, such as olives, vegetable crisps and pretzels, as well as sweets. Popcorn treat boxes €4.50 for five, diagonal cupcake liners €5.90 for 25, My Little Day.

Lighting not only makes sitting in the garden at night all the more enchanting, it stops anyone falling into a rose bush. To guide your guests, dot lanterns and tea light holders along pathways and walls. You can burn citronella candles in these too, to keep midges at bay. Filigree lanterns £40 for two; filigree tea light holders, £20 for three, Cox & Cox.

A refreshing summer cocktail or home-made lemonade dispensed from a juice jar and served in drinks jars will bring more charm to the evening. Home-made juice jar, £49.95; drinks jars, £3.50 each, Loop the Loop.

In brief

What A mixed fruit, vegetable and ornamental garden designed along ecologically sustainable lines.
Where Central London.
Size 8,000 square metres.
Soil Initially poor and filled with building refuse but improved by constant composting.
Climate Dry and hot in summer, cold and shaded but rarely freezing in winter.
Hardiness rating USDA 8.

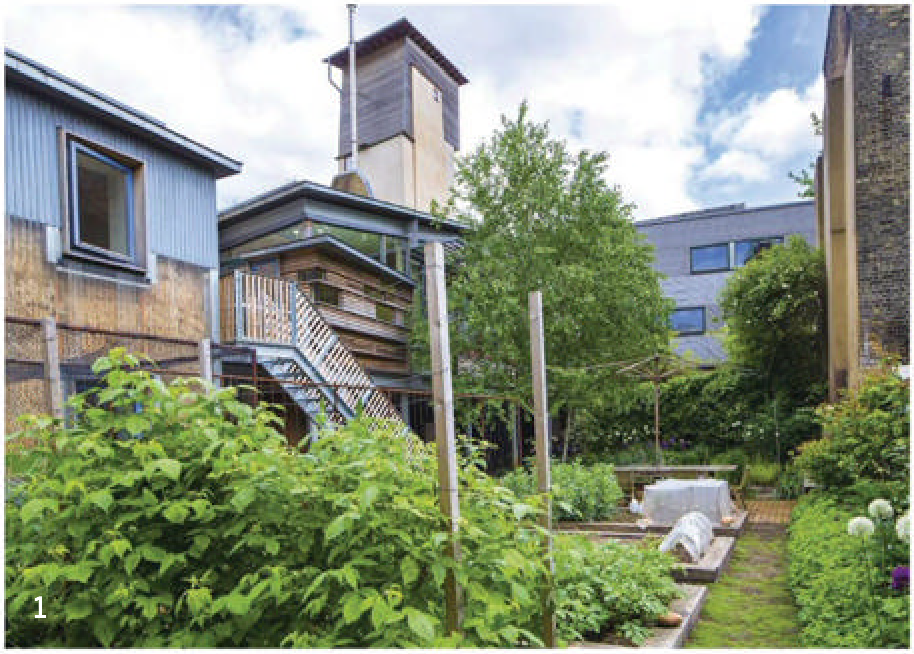


Right on track

Situated beside a railway line, this productive garden complements a home designed as a model for sustainable living. Happily, beauty is at the heart of its design too

WORDS **JOJO TULLOH** PHOTOGRAPHS **MARIANNE MAJERUS**

Designer Emma Griffin's naturalistic planting makes the most of dappled shade, with *Allium hollandicum* 'Purple Sensation' and white *Allium nigrum* contrasting with the orange *Geum* 'Mrs J Bradshaw'.



What will the future look like? In four years it will be 2019, the timeline of the science-fiction film *Blade Runner*. Made in 1982, director Ridley Scott's bleak dystopian vision was hi-tech and nature-free. I think the cities of the future will be far greener. As fuel costs rise we'll have to find ways to produce more food closer to home, and the rural will invade the urban with vertical farms and tower-block orchards. Individually, we're likely to waste less, grow more and possibly learn how to build things for ourselves. We might end up living and working in a house designed like this.

On a plot of land beside railway tracks that bring the East Coast mainline into King's Cross, London, architect Sarah Wigglesworth has created an office space for her architectural practice, a home for herself and her husband Jeremy Till, and a garden designed to be both productive and beautiful. The house was designed as a model of sustainable living in an ultra-urban setting. It was built using recycled materials aimed at the self-builder: straw bales faced with a combination of plastic and metal corrugated sheeting to insulate the walls, and crushed waste concrete contained in metal cages, called gabions. The latter act as pillars under the house. They sit on springs and help reduce vibration from the railway. The office wall facing the track is faced with cement bags to help absorb the noise from trains. The garden is irrigated using rainwater collected from down pipes that feed into two 3,000-litre capacity underground tanks.

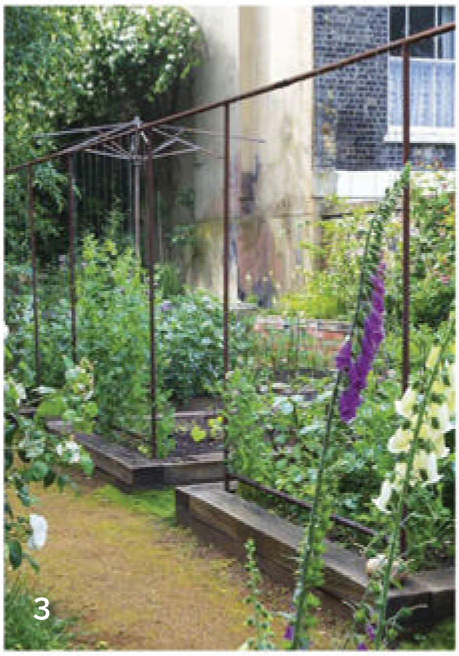
Innovative design aside, it's the way nature combines with the architectural intent behind this modern building that interests me. The garden was initially planted up by Sarah and Jeremy in 2000, following a chequerboard idea mixing ornamental planting and grasses with strips of lawn, designed for an aerial view. It swiftly proved too complicated and difficult to maintain, and so Sarah's sister, the garden designer Emma Griffin was asked to devise something more practical. The initial colour scheme changed from black-red at the east end to white at the west end with pinks in between. While some ▷

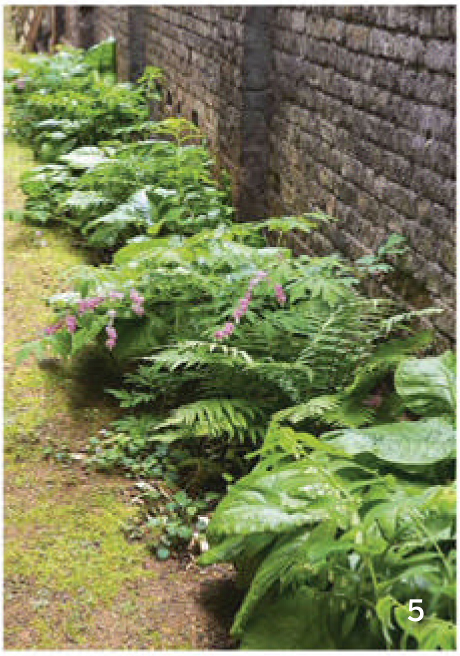
1 The house is insulated with straw bales faced with corrugated metal and clear plastic. Outside steps lead down into the garden, where raspberry canes grow exuberantly.

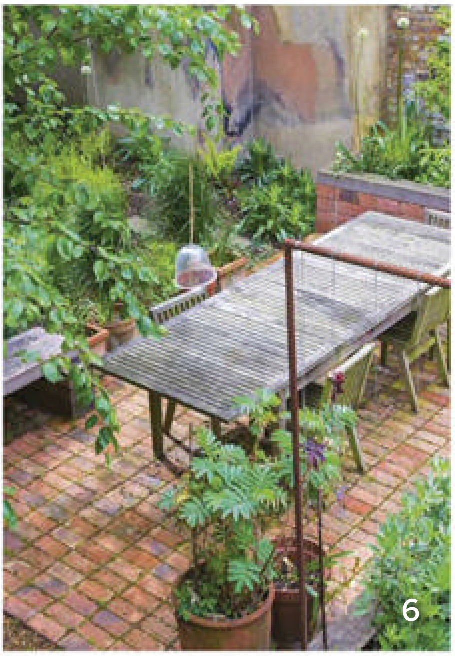
2 The very poor soil in this bed has been improved over time. Now the feathery grass *Eragrostis curvula*, *Gaura lindheimeri* 'Whirling Butterflies', the coppery orange spikes of *Verbascum* 'Clementine' and *Salvia officinalis* 'Purpurascens' (common sage) all thrive here.

3 Metal rebars are welded together to make a frame for climbing beans in the raised beds. Using this common building material in the garden echoes the way these materials have been made a very visible part of the house's construction.

4 The garden works well as a potager. Both beauty and usefulness are expressed in a border where the ornamental onion *Allium nigrum* mingles with herbs such as chives *Allium schoenoprasum* and *Salvia officinalis* 'Purpurascens'.







5 Deep shade can be a problem, but here it is made a virtue of with the creation of a successful fernery planted with *Dryopteris filix-mas, Lamprocapnos spectabilis* (previously known as *Dicentra spectabilis*) and *Polygonatum odoratum*.

6 A small brick terrace made of warm red Rudgwick brick provides an outside eating area. The same brick has been used to build a wallside bed containing magnolia and clematis.

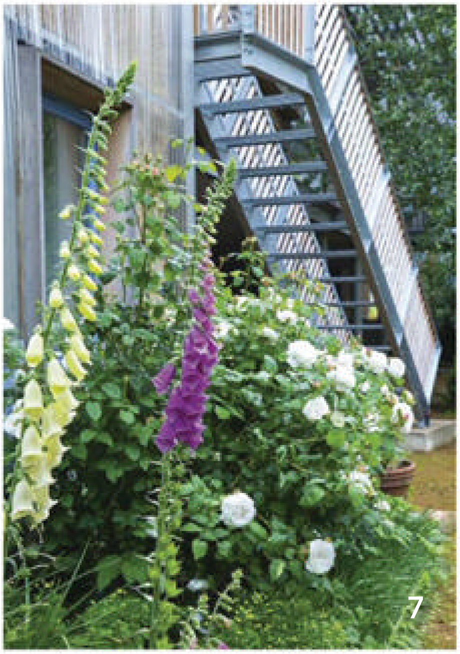
7 *Rosa* Winchester Cathedral (= 'Auscat') and *Digitalis purpurea* create a cottage garden effect against the backdrop of an ultra-modern house.

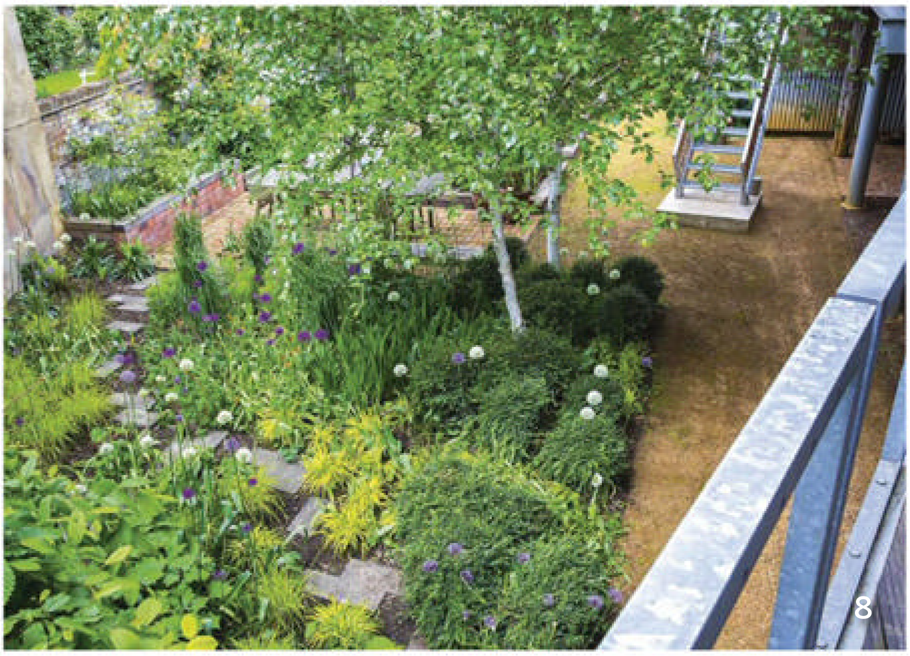
8 Feather reed-grass *Calamagrostis* x *acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' provides structure for the perennials bed, overhung by a silver birch. Seen from above, the white dots of *Allium nigrum* show up well against the emerald hillocks of the grass *Hakonechloa macra*.

Design ideas

Practical tips from Sarah Wigglesworth (left) and Emma Griffin for a more sustainable garden

Utilise all your space, and work every inch of three-dimensional space in your garden. You can maximise your growing area by **training espaliered apple and plum trees (2)** against retaining walls. Try to **use vertical as well as horizontal space** by growing climbing plants (beans, gourds etc) up strong metal supports **(3)**. And don't ignore shady areas. Ferns, including *Dryopteris filix-mas*, and other shade-loving plants, such as *Trachystemon orientalis*, *Polygonatum odoratum* and *Lamprocapnos spectabilis*, grow wonderfully in the deep shade of tall buildings **(5)**. Think about **collecting rainwater** into a large tank sunk underground. Increase the green footprint of your house by **growing a green roof** (in this case an impermeable membrane was laid across the roof with a thin layer of soil on top. Link your garden to your house so it becomes an easily accessible extension to your home. Here an **outside staircase (7)** links the raised building to the garden. Consider **raising all or simply part of the building (8)** as this provides you with extra space beneath (here it's home to chickens).





The house is raised up on stilts providing a large storage space that functions as a mini farmyard beneath the house, with plenty of room for a chicken run and a dry area to store wood.

Right A thyme path leads between the raised beds, which are planted with five varieties of potato.

▷ plants in this scheme remain, there is now a new approach to colour with *Tulipa* 'Orange Emperor' and *Narcissus triandrus* 'Ice King' providing spring colour followed by *Allium hollandicum* 'Purple Sensation', and glowing orange *Geum* 'Mrs J Bradshaw'. "I like a more relaxed approach," says Emma. From upstairs in May the window view is of the climbing rose 'Madame Alfred Carrière' whose swags of heavy white blooms break up the blind end-of-terrace wall opposite.

Emma's brief was to increase the food growing area, while retaining some features of the old garden. Improving the poor soil was one of the biggest challenges. The foundations of previous buildings were just below the surface; one bed was full of lime, sand and mortar while another was filled with clay soil and rocks. One area became very hot and dry in summer and killed almost everything planted there. Sarah and Jeremy also wanted to keep the original cobbled courtyard behind the entrance gates, as well as two *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii*, a hornbeam hedge, espalier damson and apple trees and four bamboos (*Phyllostachys aurea*). A big success is the new fernery, a border that runs in the deeply shaded space at the back of the house.

One of the clever things about this garden is the way building materials link its design to the house. Raspberries, potatoes, courgettes and currants grow in four raised beds edged in oak sleepers. In the beds are iron poles welded together to make a support for beans and climbing plants. These are rebars, the rust-coloured grooved iron poles that are common construction kit, and hark back to the site's original use as a forge that made ball bearings. "I like how it links strongly to the textures and feel of the building," says Emma. □

USEFUL INFORMATION

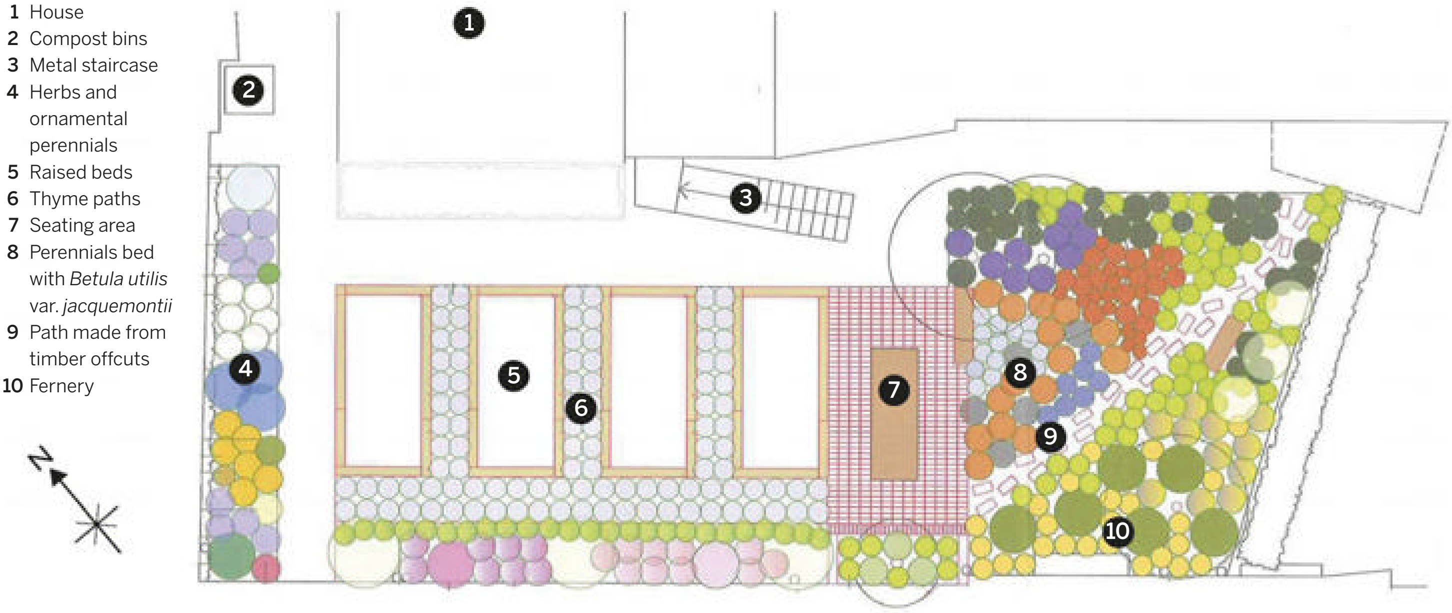
Address 10 Stock Orchard Street, London N7 9RW.

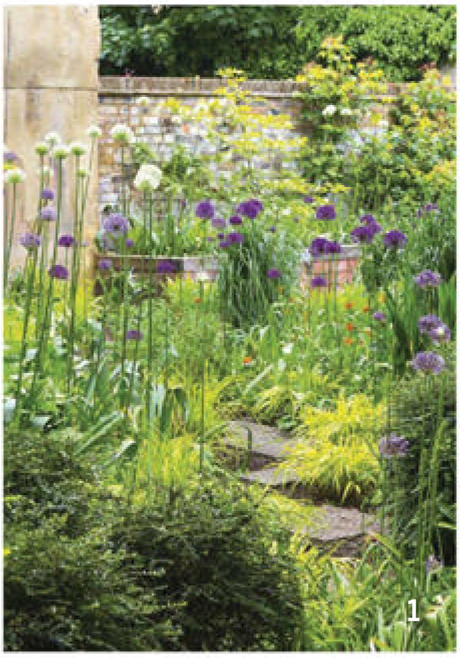
Open 10 October 2015.

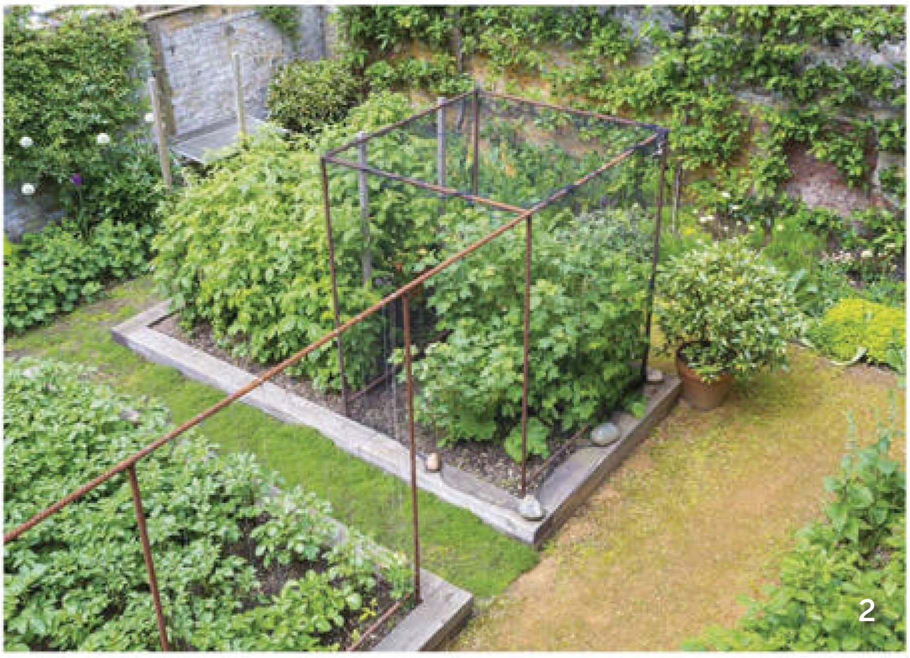
Designer emmagriffingardens.com.

GARDEN PLAN

1 House
2 Compost bins
3 Metal staircase
4 Herbs and ornamental perennials
5 Raised beds
6 Thyme paths
7 Seating area
8 Perennials bed with *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii*
9 Path made from timber offcuts
10 Fernery







Eco features

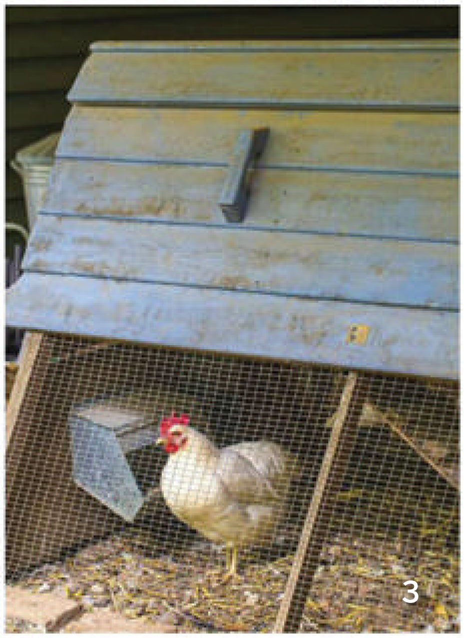
1 Nothing is wasted in this garden. The **timber offcuts** from the raised beds were faced with chicken wire, to make them grippy, and used as stepping stones through the flower garden.

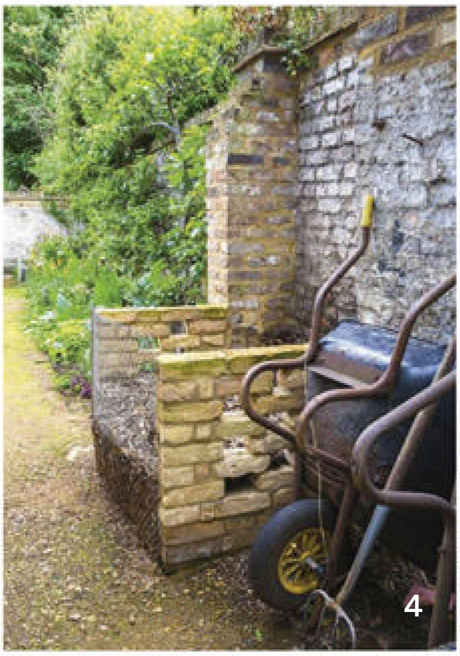
2 In good years with fruit, vegetables and eggs in plenty, Sarah and Jeremy are almost **self sufficient**. "The greenest thing we do is grow vegetables," says Jeremy. Rebars provide support for beans and peas.

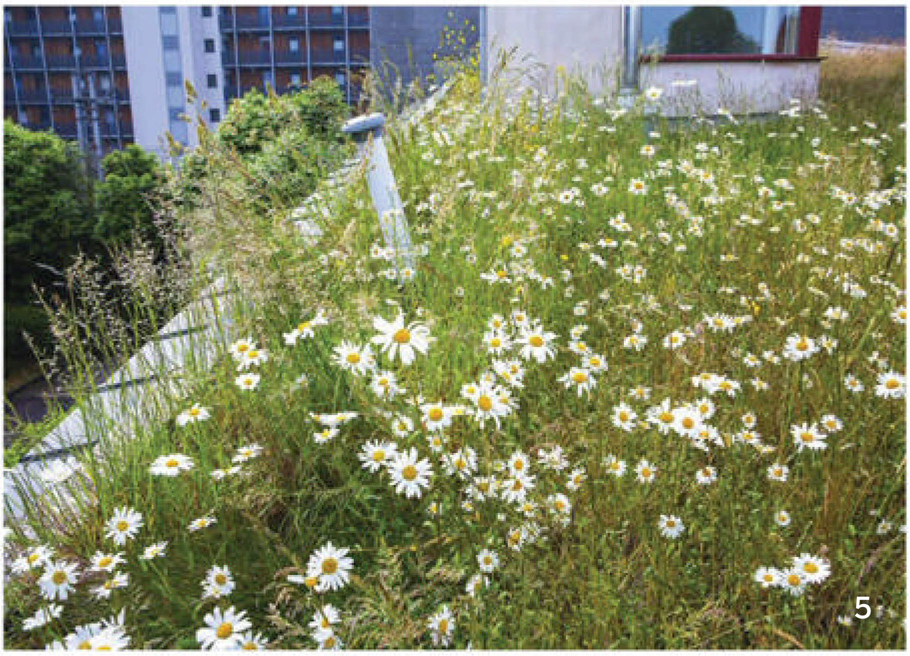
3 Sarah and Jeremy have opted for **pure breed chickens**, Rhode Island Reds and Buff Sussex (pictured right), as they lay just enough eggs – unlike many hybrid species, which have a tendency to lay too many.

4 Three **compost bins** at the side of the house deal, separately, with waste from both garden and house.

5 The **roof meadow** was originally planted with ox-eye daisies (*Leucanthemum vulgare)* but these are now mixed with numerous species of wild grass and other self-seeders. "The meadow dies back in hot weather and comes back to life in a week," says Jeremy.







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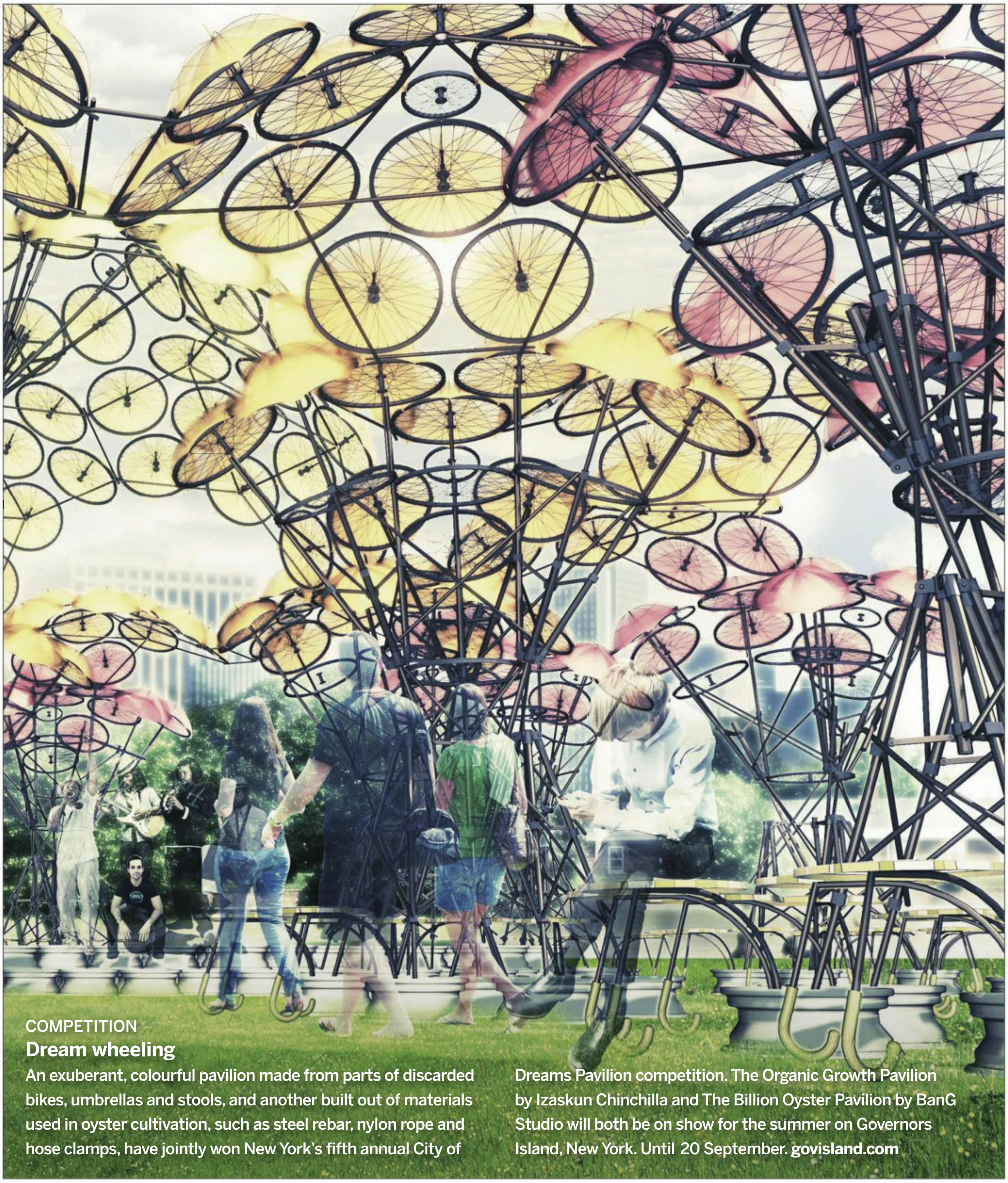
design

Design update, ideas and sourcebook

UPDATE COMPILED BY ANNIE GATTI



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF ORGANIC GROWTH PAVILION BY IZASKUN CHINCHILLA

COMPETITION

Dream wheeling

An exuberant, colourful pavilion made from parts of discarded bikes, umbrellas and stools, and another built out of materials used in oyster cultivation, such as steel rebar, nylon rope and hose clamps, have jointly won New York's fifth annual City of Dreams Pavilion competition. The Organic Growth Pavilion by Izaskun Chinchilla and The Billion Oyster Pavilion by BanG Studio will both be on show for the summer on Governors Island, New York. Until 20 September. **govisland.com**

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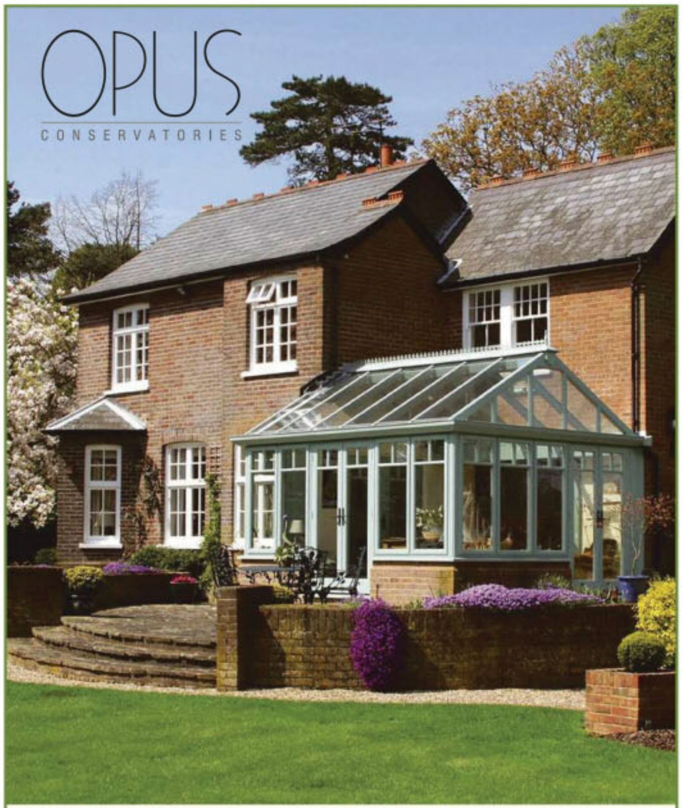

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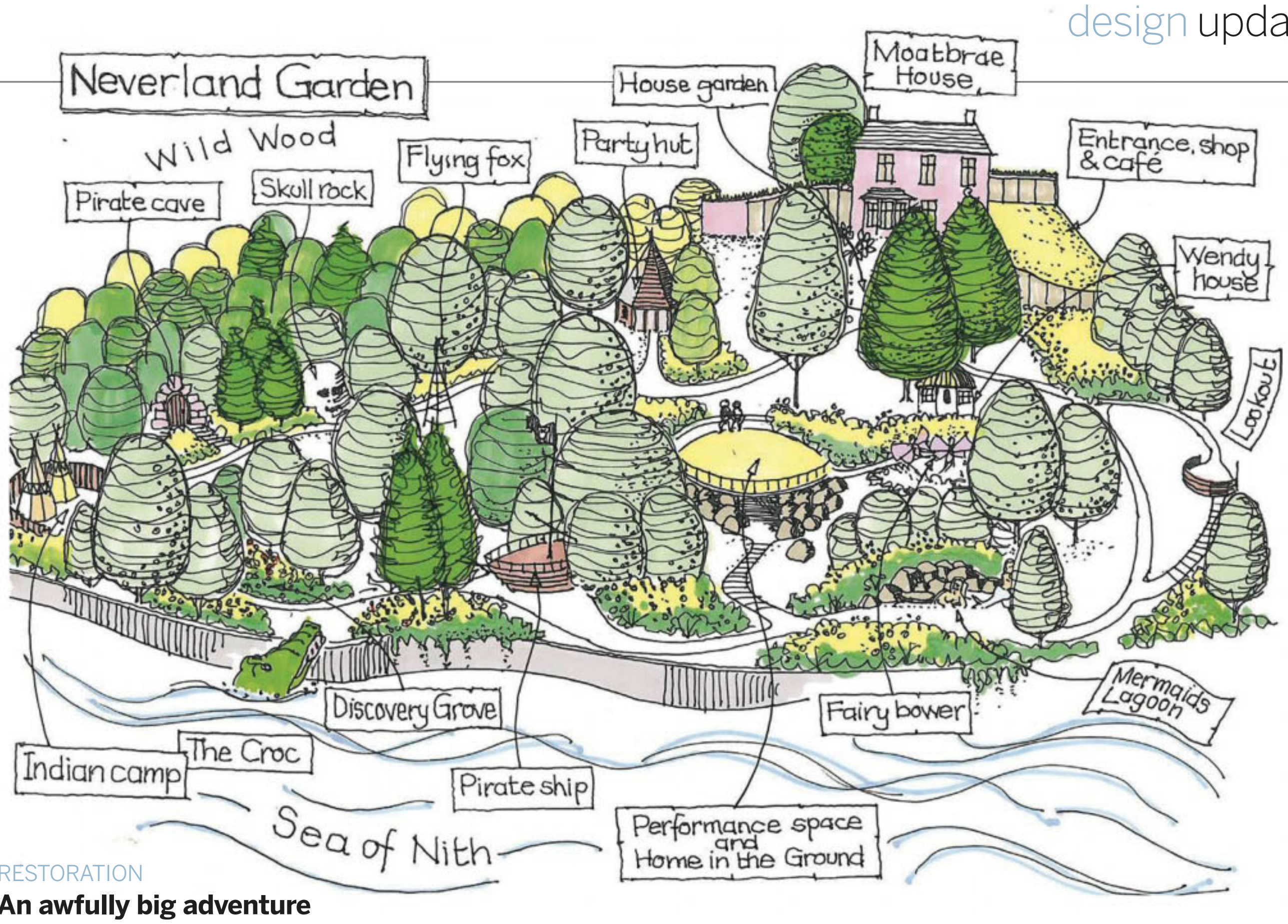
Neverland Garden
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Wendy house
Lookout
Mermaids Lagoon
Fairy bower
Performance space and Home in the Ground
Pirate ship
Discovery Grove
The Croc
Indian camp
Sea of Nith

RESTORATION

An awfully big adventure

A once fine villa house and garden, Moat Brae House in Dumfries, Scotland, has been rescued from demolition by the Peter Pan Moat Brae Trust. As a boy, the *Peter Pan* author JM Barrie played pirates along the banks of the river Nith near the house, and to celebrate this link, the trust is creating a Neverland Garden complete with lagoon, pirate cave, fairy bower and new plantings woven among the original trees. Open days on 11-12 July, 12-13 September and 10-11 October. **peterpanmoatbrae.org**

STEPPING OUT

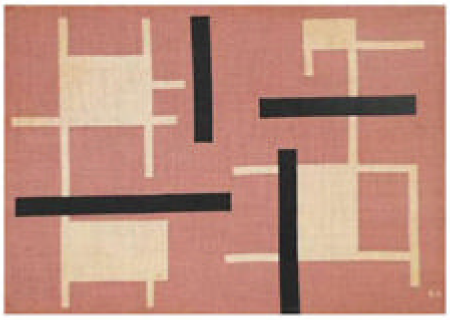
Carpet Stones from Bradstone create permeable and easy-to-lay paving that's ideal for small or awkward-shaped areas. The cobble stones are supplied on a plastic backing that can be cut to fit the shape you need. Available in rustic red and charcoal, in two shapes (straight and circle). RRP £50 per square metre. bradstone.com for stockists.

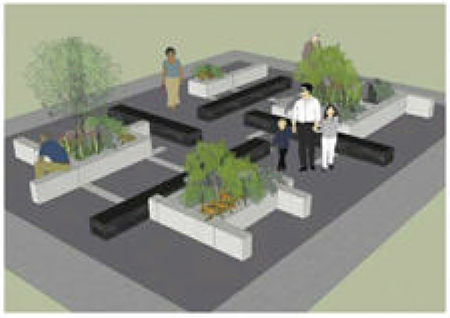
NEW GARDEN

Woodland walks

Work has begun on a five-year project to create new areas of naturalistic planting around the lake and in the adjoining woodland at Trentham Gardens, Stoke-on-Trent. Designer Nigel Dunnett promises a multi-layered take on woodland gardening using perennials and bulbs, and massed plantings of perennials and grasses to cover the sunny areas by the lake, as well as new shrubs and canopy trees. This summer visitors can enjoy the spectacle of a colourful annual meadow. **trentham.co.uk**

MOAT BRAE GARDEN BY PETER McGOWAN





EXHIBITION

Sculptural style

A garden installation inspired by the textile designs of Barbara Hepworth (top) has been erected on the front lawn at Tate Britain, London, where a retrospective of the sculptor's work continues until October. Designed by Rosie Irving and Antonia Young, it consists of a series of brightly coloured planted areas contained within a framework of black and white geometric elements. These have been cast by Haddonstone and are available to buy, either as individual pieces (450mm x 300mm) or as a complete set. For more details and prices of the St Ives Modro System, tel 01604 770711.

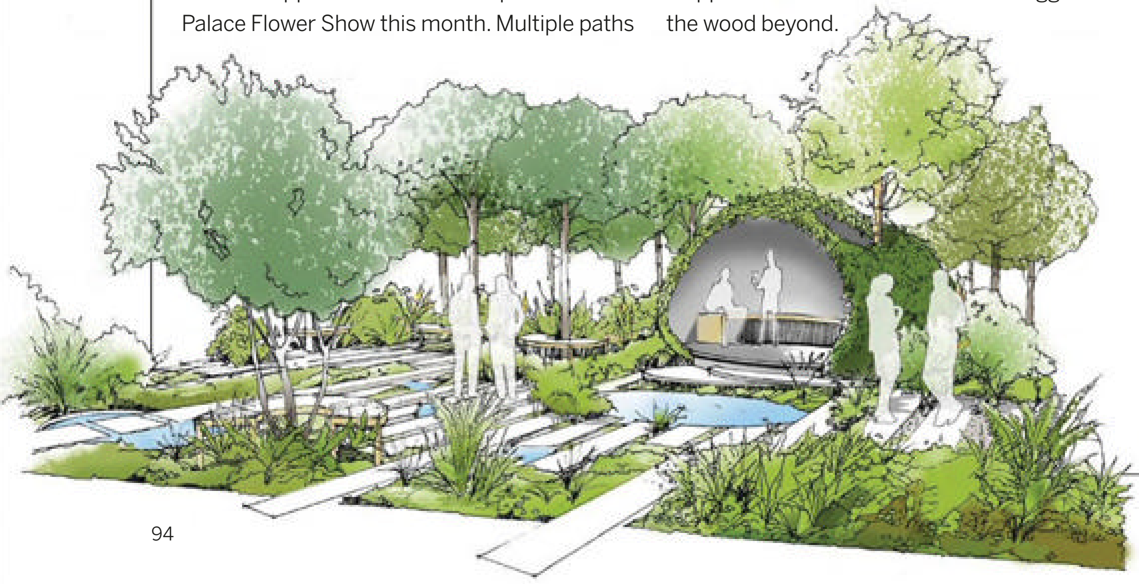
FLAIR AND SQUARE

Combining comfort with contemporary style, Oxenwood's Square garden furniture range makes the prospect of spending long summer evenings in the garden all the more appealing. Available in teak and oak, the range includes an armchair (£1,693), sofa, in both two- (£3,038) and three-seater (£4,491) options, and a coffee table (£1,020). Prices for seating includes cushions. oxenwood.eu.

SHOW GARDEN

Into the woods

A green wall of ferns and ivy cloak the pod-like shelter at the heart of Ann-Marie Powell's edge-of-woodland garden for Macmillan Cancer Support at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show this month. Multiple paths offer a choice of routes through the mainly green and white planting with accents of umber from species such as *Lilium* 'Peppard Gold'. Chinese red birches suggest the wood beyond.



Notebook

- The redesigned website of the **Society of Garden Designers** makes it easier for garden owners to find designers who are registered members of the society. It also provides information about contracts, code of practice and dispute resolution. **sgd.org**
- The 40m-long **natural swimming pool** on the King's Cross development site is now open to the public. Conceived as a temporary art installation by architects Ooze, it will be in place for two years. To visit or book a swim, go to **kingscrosspond.club**
- Renowned landscape designer **Tom Stuart-Smith** is opening his Serge Hill garden in Hertfordshire on 23 July on behalf of the Garden Museum Development Appeal. You also have the chance to visit Tania and James Compton's farmhouse garden at Spilsbury Farm, Tisbury, on 19 September. For more information contact Kezia Evans at the Garden Museum. Tel 020 7401 8865, kezia@gardenmuseum.org.uk
- Don't miss the beautiful **light-box sculptures** and handmade books by artist Amy Shelton at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, until 5 July. The exhibition of works exploring the current threats to honeybees is followed by an exhibition by Edinburgh-based artist Lorna Fraser, of ceramics and prints inspired by plant specimens in the garden's Herbarium. 1 August – 27 September. **rbge.org.uk**

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Events are held throughout the town, many of them free to the public.

Bergamo's historic Piazza Vecchia is transformed into a garden park – the 'Piazza Verde' – for everyone to enjoy.

Feeding landscape

I Maestri del Paesaggio: International Meeting of the Landscape and Garden

5-20 September 2015, Bergamo, Italy

This annual cultural and horticultural event sees an international audience gather to discuss key elements in planting and design. This year's theme, 'feeding landscape', explores the ways in which the natural landscape has been shaped by human agricultural activity. Whether it's a vineyard, a field of golden hay, a windmill or an irrigation network, every aspect of agricultural activity plays a role in the cultural identity of a country, and these will be considered throughout a range of activities, events and cultural gatherings. Visitors are invited to attend talks, seminars and workshops aimed at both professionals and interested individuals, with a series of free events, open to all of Bergamo's visitors, taking place in the town's bars and public spaces.

Programme highlights

- **5-20 September** Bergamo's Piazza Vecchia and Piazza Mascheroni are transformed into relaxing garden spaces by designers Andy Sturgeon, Lucia Nusiner and Maurizio Quargnale.
- **7-16 September** Free pop-up seminars on garden design.
- **12-13 September** Seminar focused on alpines to consider how mountains can be used as productive landscapes.
- **17-18 September** Two-day seminar on perennials with Piet Oudolf, Annie Guilfoyle, Mauro Crescini and Stefano Mancuso.
- **18-20 September** Weekend conference of the International Meeting, at the Teatro Sociale, with landscape and design experts discussing 'feeding landscape'. (Workshops on 18 September.)

Landscape and Garden conference

Date 18-20 September 2015 Venue Bergamo, Italy Cost €120 + VAT (see website for discount options)

Full details of the conference and all events can be found at **arketipos.org**

Special offer The first ten *Gardens Illustrated* readers to sign up for the conference will receive a free pass to the Gala Dinner. Insert the code 'gdinner2015-gardens' in the Green Dinner enrolment section when registering for your place. (Offer may not be combined with any other promotion.)

LANDSCAPE & GARDEN EVENT
SUPPORTED BY GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

Bergamo brings together the gardening world for 16 days of seminars and workshops.

At this year's conference

Speakers

Carlo Boni Brivio (Italy)
Owner of the organic farmstead 'Il Cerreto' in the Tuscan hills, from where he offers agritourism holidays.

Erik Dhont (Belgium)
Landscape architect whose work merges functionality and art, and celebrates a natural sense of rhythm in the garden.

Roger Doiron (USA)
Founder of Kitchen Gardens International, a non-profit network taking a hands-on approach to re-localising food supply.

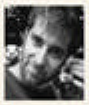
Kongjian Yu (China)
Internationally recognised for his innovative and environmentally sound designs. Yu is the founder of Turenscape.

Darko Pandakovic (Italy)
A landscape architect and professor in landscaping at the University of Milan. He also acts as a consultant for UNESCO.

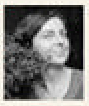
Pierre-Alexandre Risser (France)
Pierre is a specialist in transforming urban, gardens into soothing, intimate spaces.

PLUS: Marcus Barnett
Marcus has practised as a landscape designer for the past ten years. He has developed a reputation for modern designs inspired by the English garden tradition. This year he won a gold-medal at RHS Chelsea Flower Show with his garden for *The Telegraph*, inspired by the De Stijl movement.

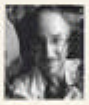
Perennials seminars (free)



Mauro Crescini (Italy)
Plantsman from perennials nursery Valfredda, who is keen to further the use of species in their correct context.



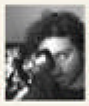
Annie Guilfoyle (IUK)
Award-winning designer and RHS Chelsea Flower Show silver medal winner, Annie is director of garden design at KLC.



Stefano Mancuso (Italy)
Director of the international laboratory of plant neurobiology and professor of plant science at University of Florence.

Piet Oudolf (Netherlands)
Influential Dutch garden designer, nurseryman and author. Key projects include the High Line in New York.

Workshops



Matteo Carassale (Italy)
An Italian photographer who works in the fields of architecture, lifestyle, travel, portraits , interiors and gardens.

Cinzia Ester Invernizzi (Italy)
A construction consultant for architectural and landscape projects.

Antonio Perazzi (Italy)
A landscape designer, who aims to create gardens that are ecological and respectful to the environment.

International Centre for Studies in Landscape and Garden Summer School
9-20 September 2015, Bergamo

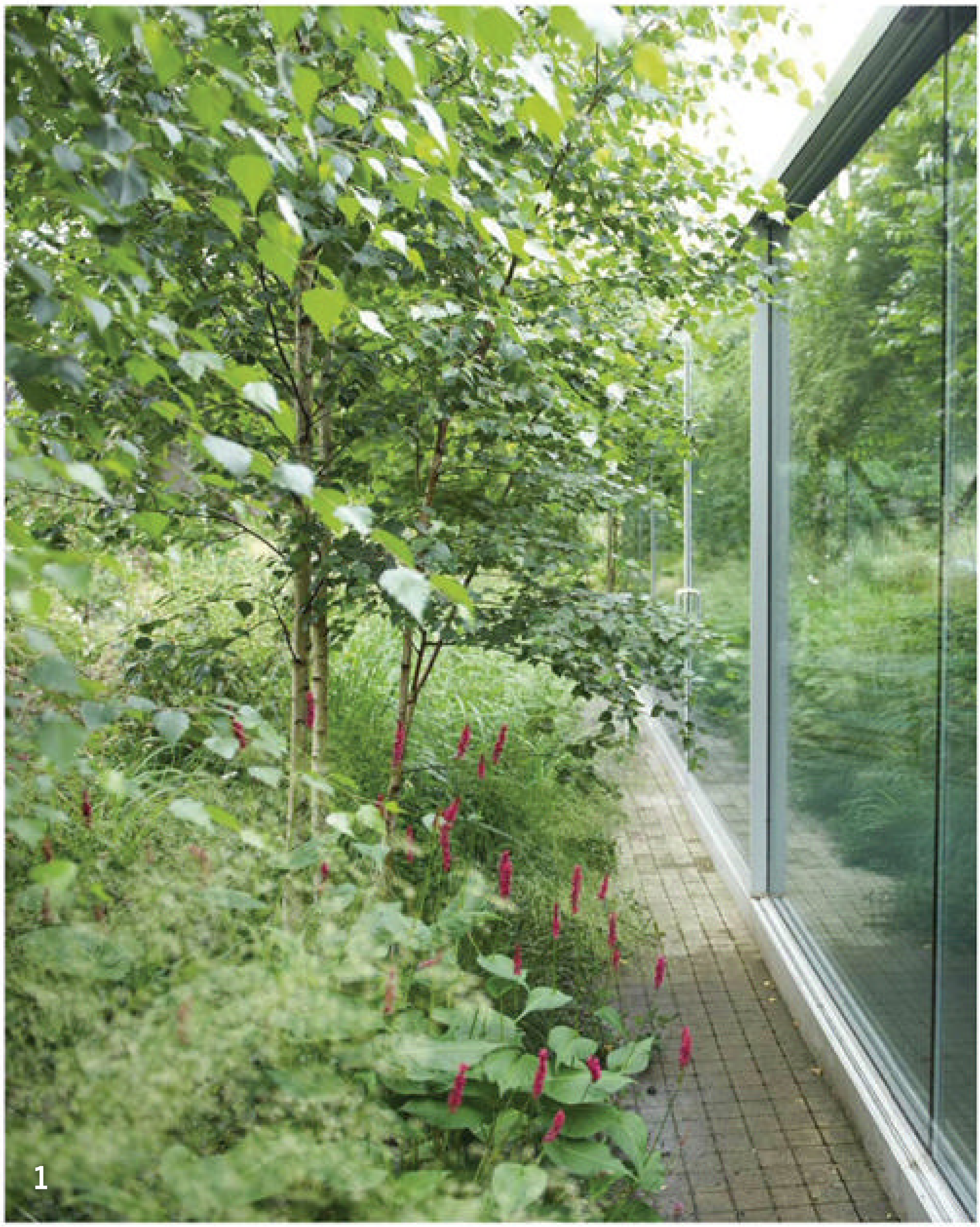
Students from a range of disciplines, including design, architecture, botany and photography, are invited to apply for this summer school, led this year by landscape architect and professor in landscape urbanism Stefan Tischer and landscape architect Annacaterina Piras. The 15 selected students will create two landscape projects for construction at I Maestri del Paesaggio 2016.

Cost €400

Closing date for applicants
20 August 2015

For further information on the summer school and how to apply email **welcome@studisulpaesaggio.org** or go to **studisulpaesaggio.org**

IMAGES: MARIANNE MAJERUS. PIAZZA VECCHIA, BERGAMO, ITALY / DESIGN: PETER FINK; LEONARDO TAGLIABUE



1 Urban wood

In Scandinavia the use of woods as a setting for your home is common. In London less so; this Urban Glamour Wood designed by Jinny Blom is a pretty yet wild and self-sustaining environment. Birch trees are planted up close to the glass to frame intimate views. Choose trees with a delicate canopy, such as *Acer palmatum*, *Euonymus europaeus* 'Red Cascade' or *Prunus* x *subhirtella* 'Autumnalis'.

1 CHARLIE HOPKINSON

Sarah Price is one of the UK's most sought-after garden designers who won worldwide recognition for her designs for the 2012 Olympic Park.

Designing with trees in small spaces

Many people worry that a tree will overpower a small garden, but as designer Sarah Price shows, the key is finding the right place and the right tree

WORDS **SARAH PRICE**

2

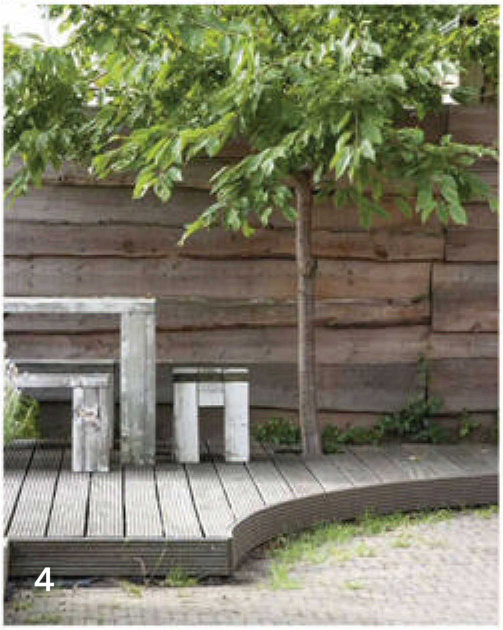
2 A secret place

Two chairs under the sprawling forms of willow transform an overlooked corner into an intimate place to sit. Selective pruning of crossing stems and dead, damaged and diseased branches can transform untamed woody forms into trees of beauty and character. Positioning your garden furniture is the final touch.

3

3 Dramatic form

Grown for their dramatic, upright form, *Pseudopanax* are an unusual species of small tree suited to tight urban spaces. Endemic to New Zealand, *Pseudopanax ferox* (pictured) is similar to the more common *Pseudopanax crassifolius*. Both trees in their juvenile state have long, thin leaves that hang at 45 degrees from their trunk.


4

4 Hard surface

Small gardens work successfully without lawns but hard surfaces can dominate. Here the simple form of a tree planted within the decking, brings an understated composition of reclaimed wood alive. Trees for this purpose with beautiful bark include: *Betula albosinensis* var. *septentrionalis* and *Prunus serrula*.

3 JONATHAN BUCKLEY, 4 MAAYKE DE RIDDER

The New Perennial Movement in planting design has a tendency to push trees into the background, yet trees are far more than a frame for exuberant planting and they deserve to take centre stage. In the temporary, manufactured setting of a Show Garden, trees give a sense of permanence allowing us to suspend our disbelief. In a real garden, trees are a magnetic presence that honour the seasons.

I frequently plant mature trees where instant effect is needed; often mixing them alongside smaller specimens that will establish quickly and eventually outstrip the more expensive purchase. Compared to the price of a bespoke oak pergola or a retaining brick wall, the cost of planting a mature tree in a well-considered position is a worthwhile investment. I recently planted four mature multi-stem *Amelanchier canadensis* in a café garden. Within a single day the modest 7m x 10m space was transformed from a building site into a secret garden, sheltered from the outside bustle of the street and animated not only by sunlight streaming through the boughs, but also by the amelanchiers' kooky, sinuous stems and later, their April blossom.

Often, we are reluctant to plant trees because of the potential shade they will cast. ▷

5 Saplings on show

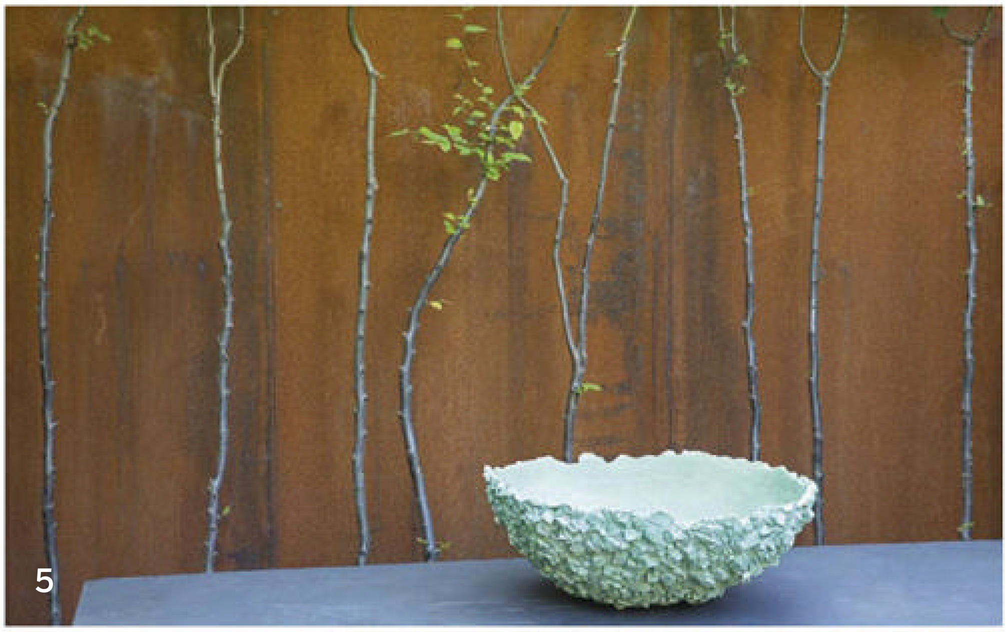
Corten steel panels create a dramatic backdrop for a row of young, pleached hornbeams in this design by del Buono Gazerwitz. Saplings are available in many different cultivated shapes and once planted can be trained exactly to suit your space. A minimal backdrop will always highlight the delicate beauty of young tree stems.

6 Illusions

Reflective cladding on architecture or boundaries, as in this design by architect Ian McChesney, can transform a green space, making it appear lighter and larger. Aged mirrors or weathered panels of copper are particularly effective and won't confuse birds in flight. Another design ruse is to reflect the canopy of a tree in a simple stone water basin or pool.

7 Raised planters

Make a bold feature of a tree in a small, hard space by planting into a custom-made planter. In this design by de Zilverlinde, the planter is created out of a curved band of Corten steel. The white mulberry, *Morus alba,* has a simple under planting of *Festuca mairei*.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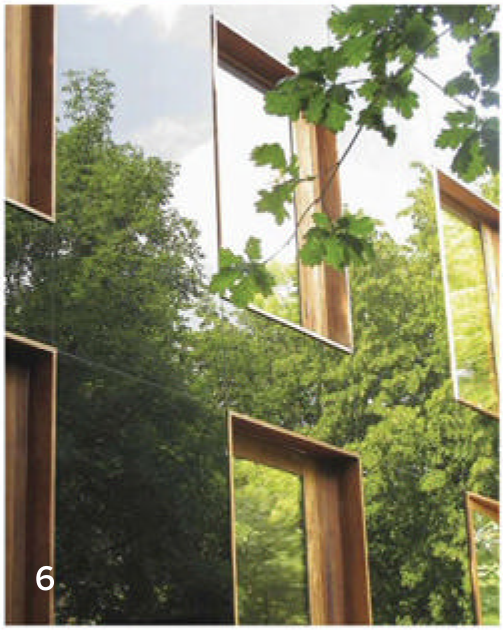
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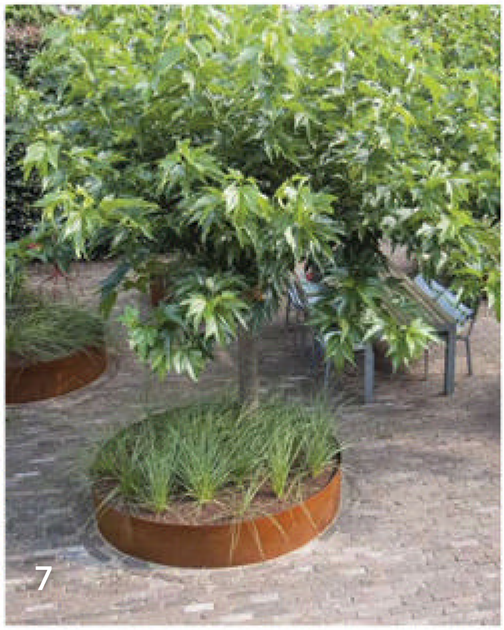
7

5 MARIANNE MAJERUS, DESIGN: DEL BUONO GAZERWITZ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, BOWL DESIGN BY FAYE TOOGOOD; 6 IAN McCHESNEY; 7 MAAYKE DE RIDDER

▷ It needn't be this way. Now is a good time to observe different species of trees for their suitability as midsummer canopies are at their fullest. *Amelanchier*, *Malus*, *Koelreuteria*, *Crataegus* and *Betula* are all popular small garden trees as they have a delicate canopy that gently filters the light, allowing perennials to grow beneath their spread. Trees such as *Ficus* and *Morus* create a denser shade and are more suited to hot courtyard spaces.

In many small gardens there is already a tree that could form the perfect focus for the garden if given space. 'Halo felling' is a romantic phrase for a practical woodland management policy that allows a broadleaf tree's beauty to shine. This means clearing enough shrubs and trees around a single tree to create a halo of light, enabling that one tree to thrive. This sensitive treatment honours the spirit of a tree and can be applied to even the smallest of spaces. Careful editing can extend to self-seeding saplings, such as hornbeam, oak or even ash, which can be pruned into low cloud-like forms or twisted together to from an abstract shape or tunnel.

The best gardens reflect the personality of their owners. Gardener Julia Wylie has transformed her 15m x 7m L-shaped plot into a wildlife haven in southeast London by planting

8 BRITT WILLOUGHBY DYER; ARNE MAYNARD GARDEN DESIGN

8 Pleached garden rooms

Hornbeam and limes are commonly trained as pleached trees, however, many other species are just as effective including: *Malus* 'Evereste', *Morus alba*, *Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer', *Platanus* x *hispanica* and *Acer campestre*. Here a row of pleached crab apples nestle up close to designer Arne Maynard's front door welcoming you into an intimate courtyard.

an eclectic mix of trees up close to her house. Hawthorns and field maple jostle beside shaggy box balls, olive trees, a hedge of *Muehlenbeckia astonii* and bizarre New Zealand lancewoods, *Pseudopanax crassifolius*. She is breaking design rules that dictate unity and repetition. But she has panache and style, and has exercised restraint in her practical ground cover of *Anemanthele lessoniana*, which forms a unifying matrix studded with teasel, red campion, *Gladiolus communis* subsp. *byzantinus* and *Rosa* x *odorata* 'Mutabilis': bright accents that glow in soft, dappled shade. ☐

Next issue Stylish play spaces in the garden.

Where to source

The following specialist tree nurseries will help you choose the right tree to suit your garden:

- **Architectural Plants** (architecturalplants.com) specialises in usual specimen plants: Japanese and European topiary and a range of rare evergreen trees.
- Both **Burncoose Nurseries** (burncoose.co.uk) and **Pan-Global Plants** (panglobalplants.com) offer an inspiring choice of rare and exotic trees.
- **Majestic Trees** (majestictrees.co.uk) specialises in supplying semi-mature and mature trees and also provides full planting services.

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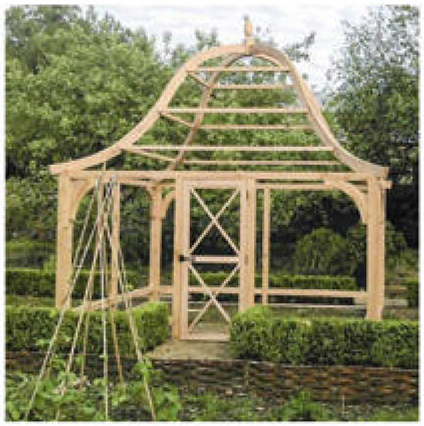
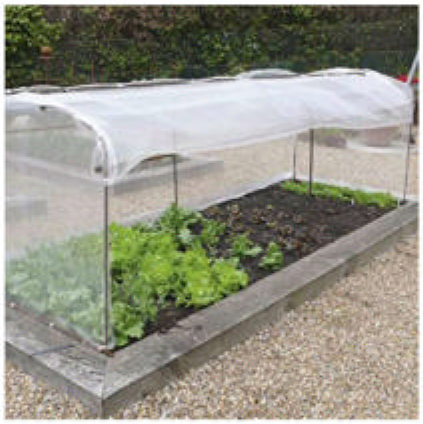


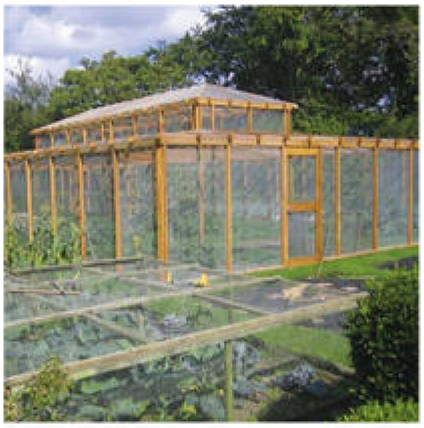
SEASONED OAK

Oak fruit cage, from £8,000-£9,000,
Sellick & Saxton,
07769 730379, sellickandsaxton.com



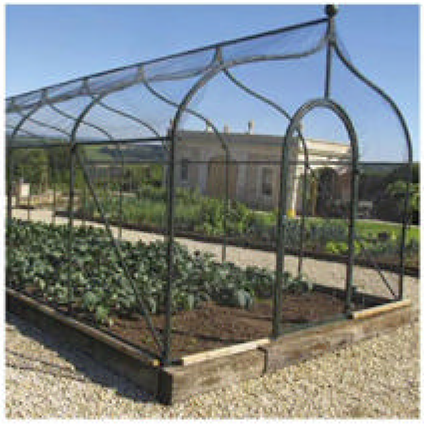
SHORT ON SPACE

Vegetable cage, from £450,
Muntons Traditional Plant Supports,
0800 130 3421, muntons.net



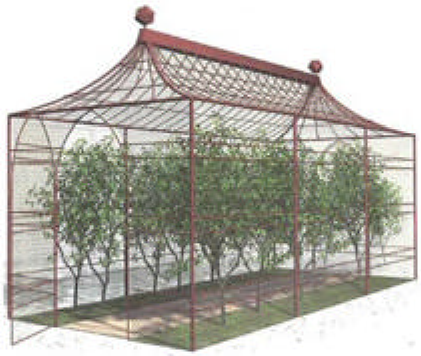
COMPLETE COVER

Timber fruit cage, approx £4,800 plus VAT,
Classic Suffolk Timber Frames,
01728 638372, classicsuffolktimberframes.co.uk



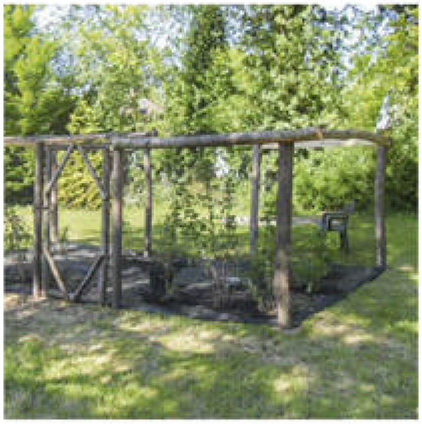
HAND FORGED

Gothic fruit and vegetable cage £4,500 plus
VAT (net extra), Iron Art,
01225 311273, ironart.co.uk



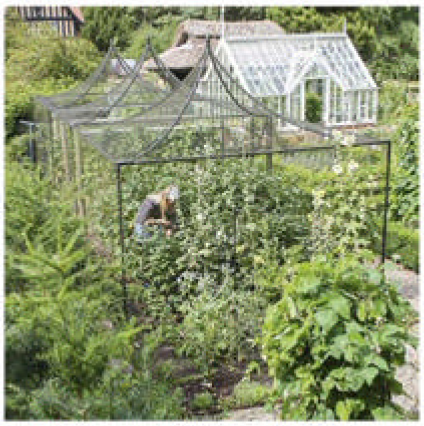
WEATHERED LOOK

Rusted iron fruit cage, £15,000 plus VAT,
Room In The Garden,
01730 816881, roominthegarden.com



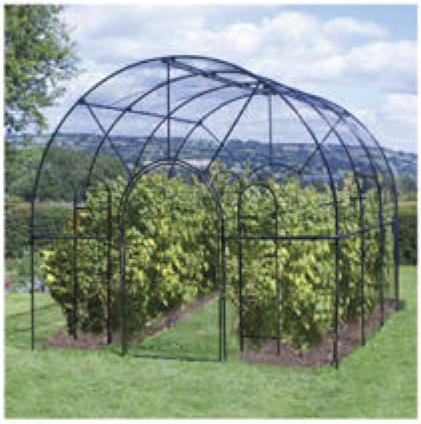
ARTISAN

Sweet chestnut fruit cage, £600 plus VAT,
Charlotte Love Designs,
01442 879890, charlottelovedesigns.co.uk



DURABLE

Decorative peak roof steel cage, from £615,
Harrod Horticultural,
0845 402 5300, harrodhorticultural.com



GALVANISED STEEL

Roman fruit cage, from £620,
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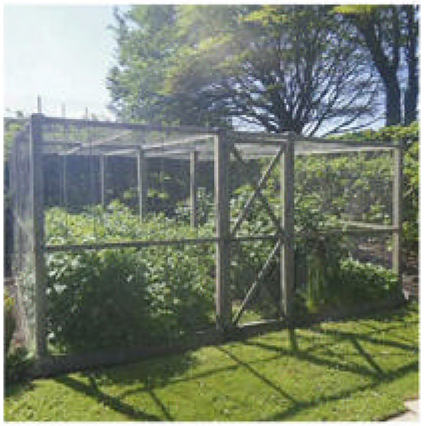

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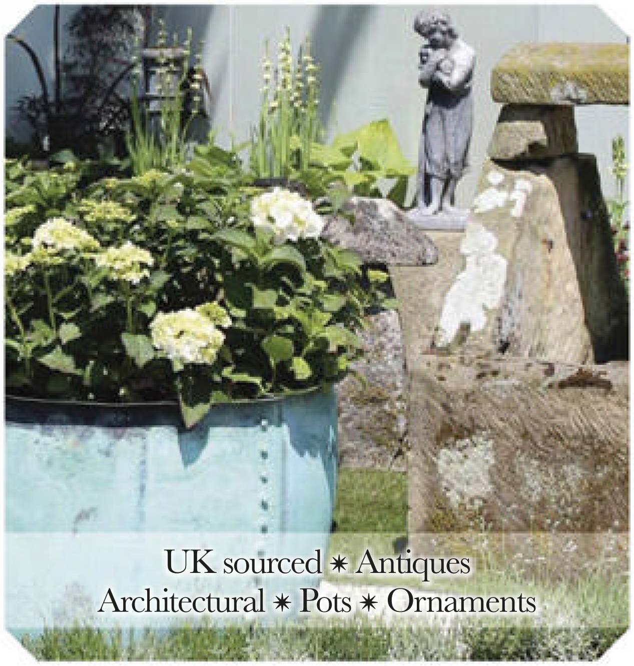

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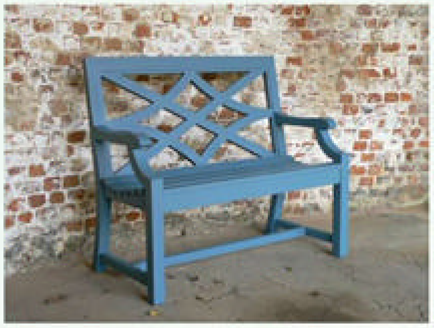
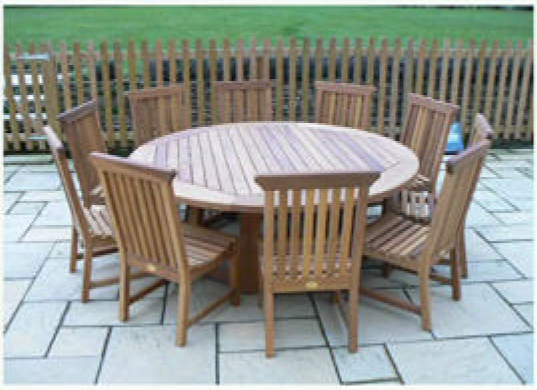
Make the most of your summer bounty with some great recipe ideas, including these refreshing Pimm's jellies, from *One-Pot Gourmet Gardener,* reviewed on page 108.

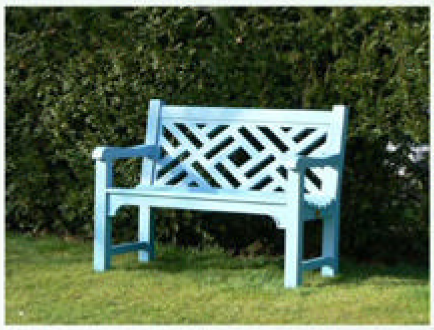
JASON INGRAM

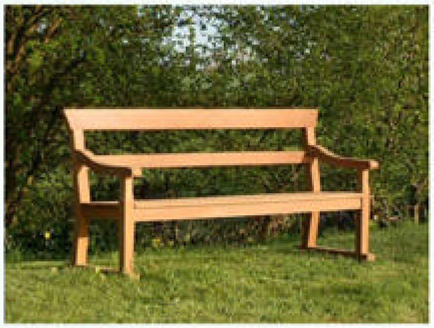
Andrew Crace

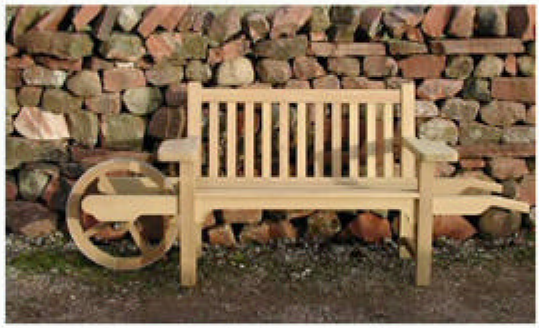
www.andrewcrace.com

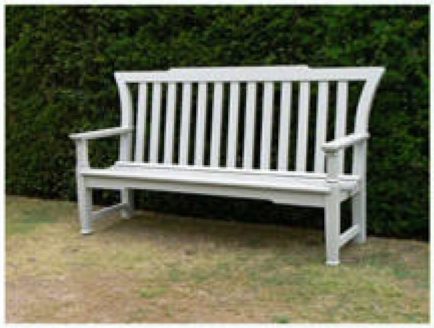

Charles Over 2 Seater painted Morning Blue

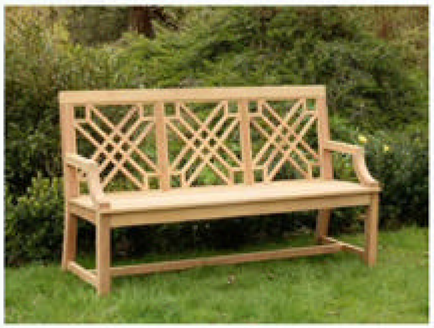

Pedestal Table and Peacock Chairs

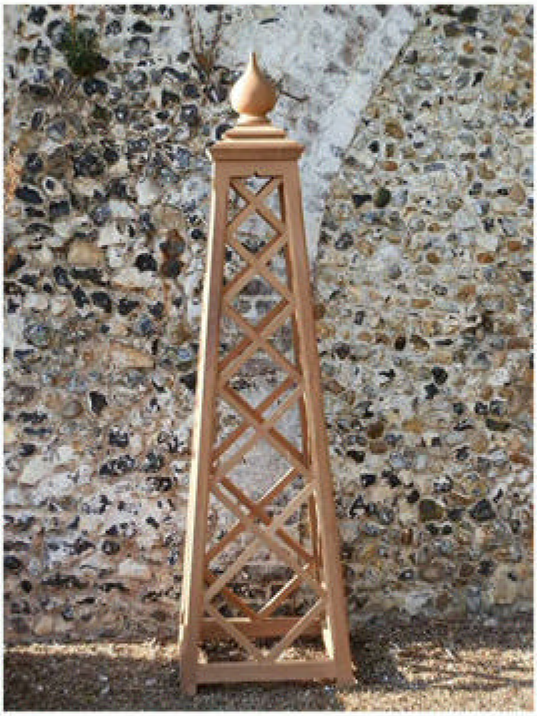

Chinoiserie Heavy Back 2 Seater
painted Tioram Green

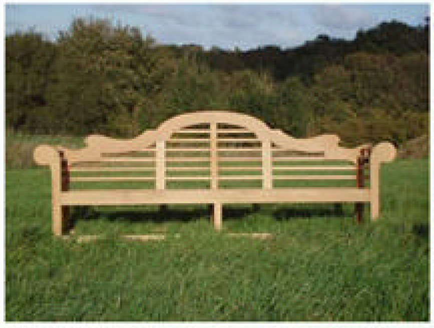

Traditional Estate 3 Seater

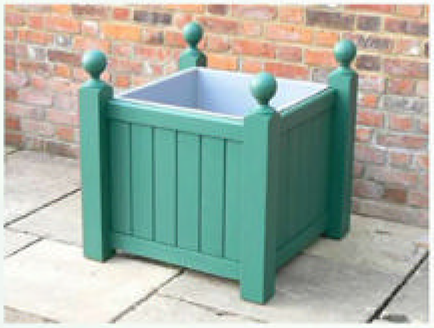

Slatted Wheelbarrow Seat

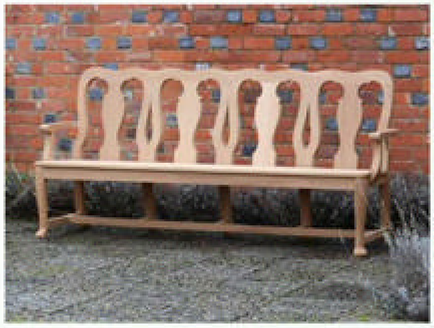

Leighton 3 Seater painted White


The Pavilion 3 Seater


Obelisk


Large Lutyens Seat


Baroque Planter with Fibreglass Liner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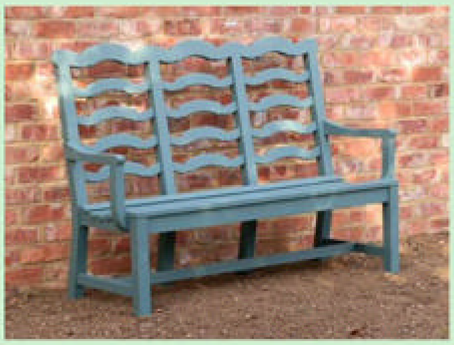
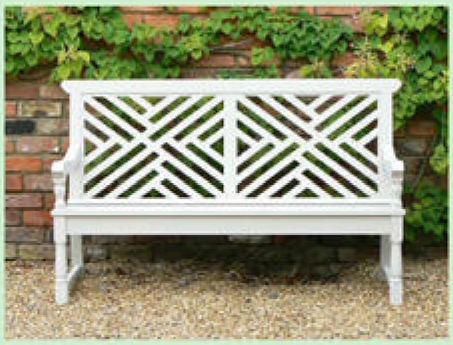
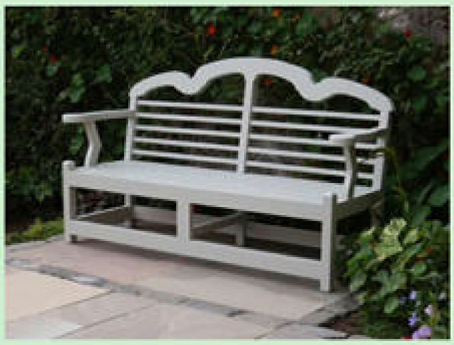
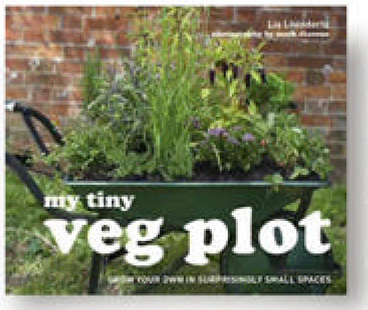

Ladderback 3 Seater painted Peacock Blue


Moot Seat painted Light Grey


Sissinghurst Sun Seat painted Grey

Book reviews


Lia Leendertz
photography by mark diacono
my tiny
veg plot
GROW YOUR OWN IN SURPRISINGLY SMALL SPACES

MY TINY VEG PLOT: GROW YOUR OWN IN SURPRISINGLY SMALL SPACES

by Lia Leendertz,
photography by Mark Diacono

Pavilion Books, £14.99
ISBN 978-1910496053

A book filled with inspiring, intensive planting techniques that show you don't need acres of space to grow your own produce.

Reviewer Jojo Tulloh is an author and Gardens Illustrated *columnist.*

I've always had a soft spot for tiny gardens having started out by planting one myself on a tower-block balcony. Don't let the too-cute title put you off, this is a well-researched and very interesting book jam-packed with helpful ideas.

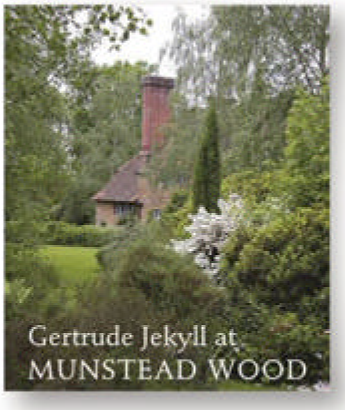
Each chapter focuses on up to four, sometimes only two, different gardens with a practical description of what each gardener is doing; from a thrifty London gardener with a self-imposed budget of £50 a year, to an architectural pavilion in France that celebrates salad. This is followed by at least one, step-by-step practical photo essay. These might focus on under-planting fruit trees with herbs or creating the fabulous-sounding, hanging lettuce ball. Notably, the importance of feeding and watering the garden isn't skimped on either.

Twenty-five gardens from around the world are featured, from high-rise to mobile gardens, including one in the back of a truck. Also included is the author's own verandah, which reads like an Eden of large-leaved plants, bright flowers and succulent edibles, form nectarines and grapes to more exotic fare, such as ginger and turmeric.

Most of us are growing our own by choice but the section on the keyhole garden, designed to overcome Lesotho's harsh climate, reminds us that for some, it's a necessity.

With so many gardens covered, the lack of depth can be frustrating. On the plus side, featuring such a multitude of diverse gardens gives you a wealth of ideas for projects, many perfect for gardening with children. As so many of the contributors have their own blog, it's easy to find out more about, for example, Anni Kelsey's small-scale perennial vegetable growing or the organisation behind the keyhole garden technique. Don't judge this book by the cover.

Book offer
RRP £14.99. **Reader offer price £13.49** including p&p*.



GERTRUDE JEKYLL AT MUNSTEAD WOOD

by Judith Tankard
and Martin Wood

Pimpernel Press, £25
ISBN 978-1910258057

A poetic portrayal that strips back the formidability of Gertrude Jekyll, exposing her warm, yet vulnerable, personality.

Reviewer Ambra Edwards is a garden historian and writer.

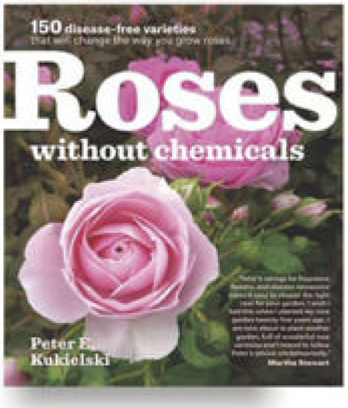
In 1930, the octogenarian Gertrude Jekyll, frail and half blind, waves off her young visitor Logan Pearsall Smith, after an invigorating afternoon of heated etymological debate. He leaves her standing at the door like 'an ancient, incredibly aristocratic rhinoceros gazing gravely out from amid a tangle of river reed'. It is gems like this that make Tankard and Wood's book so worthwhile.

We think we know Gertrude Jekyll, the formidable doyenne of the Edwardian garden who urged us to look at gardens with her own fiercely intelligent and painterly eye. They show us a warmer, more vulnerable and more interesting figure, wide-ranging in her interests and skills. That she was forthright, witty and excellent company will come as no surprise to anyone who has read her prose. But she's also the dotty spinster with a house overrun with cats, permanently broke, and finally a reclusive old lady living in terror of having to leave the house she loves.

But the book is not intended as biography: rather it seeks to shine a light on Jekyll's many accomplishments, through the lens of the house she designed with Edwin Lutyens at Munstead Wood. A practical craftswoman (she even had a forge where she made her own tools), she was also a collector and significant taste-maker. Above all, she became a proficient photographer, illustrating her books and articles with her own images. Many are reproduced here, some for the first time. Her first published photo, in 1885, is an atmospheric study of bergenias. Later ones record the progress of her gardens – invaluable, since so little now remains. But most beguiling are her studies of humble domestic items, such as a collection of 'delicious funny odd luggage'. These bundles seem somehow jaunty and indomitable – much like the lady herself.

Book offer
RRP £25. **Reader offer price £22.50** including p&p*.

Book reviews



ROSES WITHOUT CHEMICALS: 150 DISEASE-FREE VARIETIES
by Peter E Kukielski

Timber Press, £14.99
ISBN 978-1604693546

New millennial roses – 150 of the best, naturally disease-resistant blooms from the curator of the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden.

Reviewer Val Bourne is a garden writer and lecturer.

Rose growing has entered a new era in the past 20 or so years. Most gardeners are no longer willing to spray their roses for pests and diseases because it's time consuming, expensive and known to be ecologically damaging. So this authoritative book about growing roses sustainably, is a timely addition to the gardener's bookshelf.

Its author, American rose expert Peter E Kukielski, was the curator of the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden at the New York Botanical Garden between 2006 and 2013. In 2007 he redesigned the rose garden to showcase disease-resistant roses and in 2012 the garden received the ultimate accolade – the Award of Excellence from the World Federation of Rose Societies.

Based on his experience, Peter recommends 150 disease-resistant roses, calling them new millennial roses, scoring them for disease resistance, quality of bloom and fragrance. His alphabetical list, although subjective, is highly useful. Over half the chosen roses have been bred by the German rose breeder Kordes so they have the prefix KOR displayed in brackets after the name. This is because roses are often given a different name in different countries. Rose of the Year 2006, Champagne Moment (='Korvanaber'), is listed under its American name of 'Lions-Rose' for instance. Confused British gardeners will find the index partly solves the problem as the breeding name KORvanaber takes precedence. Others in Peter's list are classics and they include 'New Dawn', and 'Alister Stella Gray'.

Despite these difficulties this in an excellent book. It discusses pests and predators, lists suitable insect-friendly companions and goes into basics, such as pruning. It also defines each rose group – Bourbon, Centifolia etc – and recommends the healthiest choices. An ideal reference book for those new to the subject.

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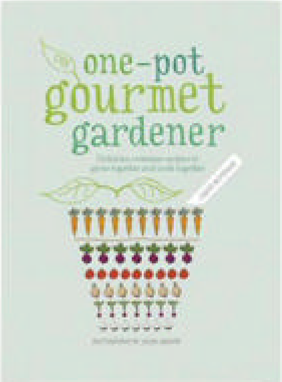

ONE-POT GOURMET GARDENER: DELICIOUS CONTAINER RECIPES TO GROW TOGETHER AND COOK TOGETHER
by Cinead McTernan,
photography by Jason Ingram,
illustrations by Becky Clarke

Frances Lincoln, £16.99
ISBN 978-0711235908

An inspirational route map for those wanting to start growing and cooking their own produce on a small scale.

Reviewer Francine Raymond is a columnist for The Telegraph.

Cinead McTernan is right when she says you don't need an allotment to grow your own fruit, vegetables and herbs. Even the smallest window box, balcony or front garden can house enough containers to provide the ingredients for a single dish, a meal to celebrate your first foray into gardening.

This clever introduction to the joys of home produce is just the ticket to tempt the latest crop of young people into gardening, and what better route to take than through their stomachs: my sons started with just a few pots of herbs on a windowsill. Most recipes involve a few vegetables with a complementary herb, but since most herbs need different growing conditions, they're grown in a separate container, so the main ingredients can survive without too much competition.

While many of the recipes are good classic fare: tomato, basil and oregano pizza, ratatouille, gazpacho and baba ganoush, I can't wait to try Cinead's courgette and fennel tart, and her roasted garlic with herbs has me looking forward to harvest. I wasn't sure the equally tempting Pimm's jelly ingredients would ripen at the same time – my strawberries are usually long gone by the time cucamelons are ready.

This book is food for the eyes too, with fine explanatory photos by Jason Ingram and quirky drawings by Becky Clarke – nice to see illustrations coming to the fore again – and the layout is clear. On the left-hand page is a recipe, and on the right are concise instructions on how to grow its ingredients, with suitable varieties, plus amounts of compost and fertiliser needed for the contents to grow well, and important watering and feeding instructions, because these potted plants are entirely at your mercy.

This is a lovely book and one I'd be happy to pass on to anyone just starting to grow their own.

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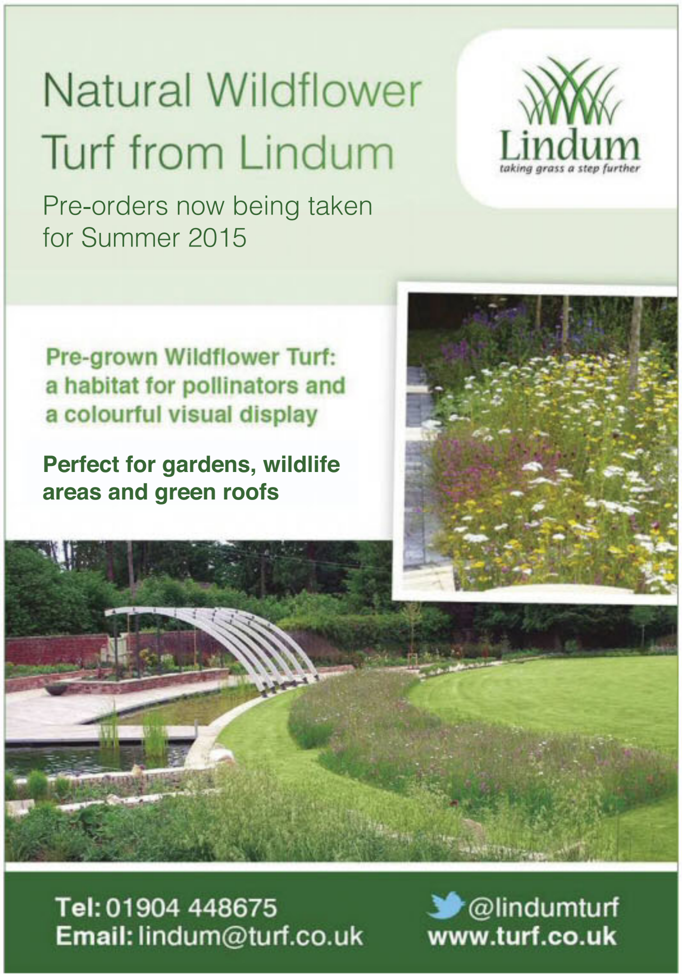
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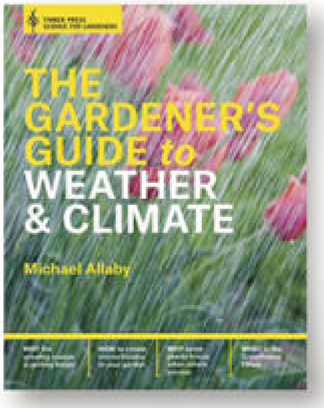


THE GARDENER'S GUIDE TO WEATHER & CLIMATE

by Michael Allaby

Timber Press, £20
ISBN 978-1604695540

Not just a book about understanding weather, but a gardening guide that keeps a conscious eye on climatic conditions.

Reviewer Mark Diacono is a food and garden writer.

For many of us, weather is something to be endured or enjoyed, a force beyond much interpretation: this book shows us that by familiarising ourselves with the fundamentals of climate and weather we can 'predict its vagaries…' and 'recognise suitable conditions for sowing and planting, to know which plants to position where and how best to help plants cope with adverse conditions'.

A third of the book is dedicated to climate systems and the changing climate (historical and predicted), which sets up the sections on weather (why the wind blows; jet streams; the formation of clouds and rain, etc), microclimates, and plants and climate. This all informs the reader's understanding of actually how, for example, weather affects plants, why we have seasons or why some plants flower in spring while others much later. Some of this I knew, some was a reminder of processes and principles learned and forgotten over the years, but the presentation, structure and tone of the book strung piecemeal knowledge and new (to me) information into a cohesive whole. The closing sections outline how this understanding can help us deal with adverse weather, design our gardens better and understand what is taking place, rather than just passively observing.

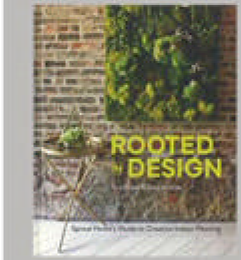
This is primarily a book about climate and weather, and the processes that underlie what we do in the garden, and it delivers on its promise to increase understanding – from how primary geographical processes result in particular local outcomes – as a way of enabling gardeners to become better at what they do. It's well organised, accessible in tone and style, and well illustrated. I thoroughly enjoyed it and feel as though I appreciate what is going on out in the garden and the wider picture in a more complete and satisfying way.

Book offer

RRP £20. **Reader offer price £18** including p&p*.

Other books

A round up of new books from ideas for outdoor planting, to fruit and vegetables grown from pips



ROOTED IN DESIGN: SPROUT HOME'S GUIDE TO CREATIVE INDOOR PLANTING

by Tara Heibel and Tassy De Give
Ten Speed Press, £20
ISBN 978-1607746973

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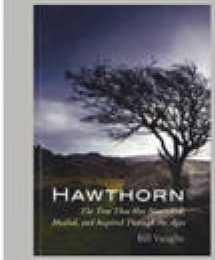
HAWTHORN
The Tree That Has Nourished, Healed, and Inspired Through the Ages
Bill Vaughn

HAWTHORN: THE TREE THAT HAS NOURISHED, HEALED, AND INSPIRED THROUGH THE AGES

by Bill Vaughn
Yale University Press, £17.99
ISBN 978-0300203493

An appreciation of a tree bound up in human history.

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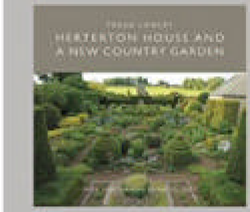

HERTERTON HOUSE AND A NEW COUNTRY GARDEN

by Frank Lawley,
photography by Val Corbett
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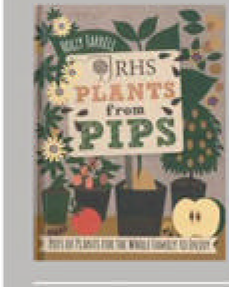

RHS PLANTS FROM PIPS: POTS OF PLANTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY TO ENJOY

by Holly Farrell
Mitchell Beazley, £10
ISBN 978-1784720445

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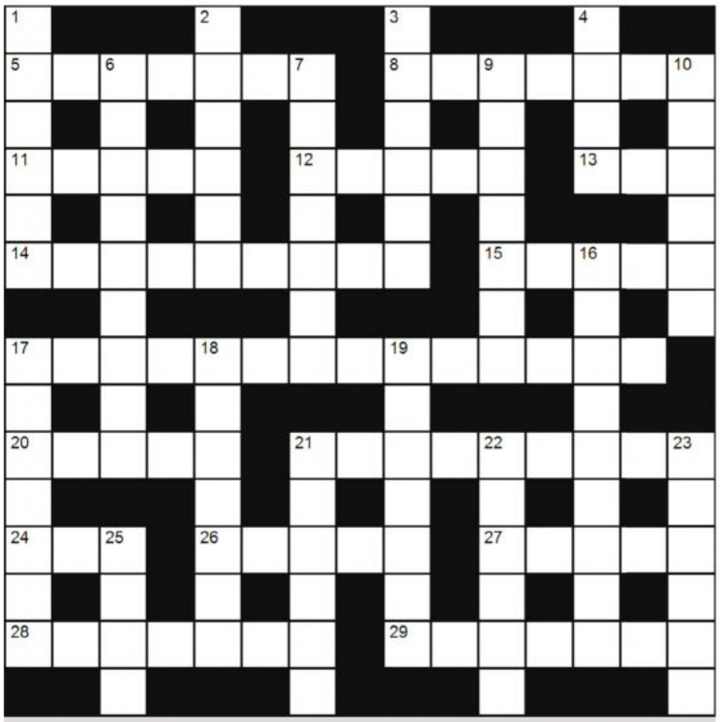


ACROSS
5 Sun-loving, nemesia-like, usually pink flower – 'acid' is a variety (7)
8 It's an edible plant – cos it may be! (7)
11 Leisurely walk, having topped and tailed wild rose (5)
12 Cultivate by growing some flora is easy (5)
13 Newspaper that's an essential for plant growth (3)
14 Yellow daisy-like flower, produced from coir mound (9)
15 Pop group used by flower arranger? (5)
17 Annual RHS community competition – gives UK trendy outbreak of algae! (7,2,5)
20 Eg apply a remedy to… spoiled tater (5)
21 Clump of bushes – berry bush, possibly (9)
24 Pinch out part of kniphofia (3)
26 Citrus fruit – you won't want to be sold one! (5)
27 Thorny shrub goes wild around end of September (5)
28 Dandelion-like wild flower – California aster perhaps (4,3)
29 Mangetout is one such (4,3)

DOWN
1 Plantsman EA Bowles's first name (6)
2 Eg protective line of trees – on which to see BBC *Gardeners' World*? (6)
3 Everything starts off this onion genus (6)
4 Trims back – is removed from damaged cistus (4)
6 Purple fruit eaten as vegetable – fashionable in a French inn (9)
7 *Tagetes erecta* is the ____ marigold (7)
9 Litre of mixed clover, maybe? (7)
10 First name of plantsman EH Wilson (6)
16 Sedum plant, right inside pots once broken (9)
17 Related to plant study, Barnsdale's first action broadcast (7)
18 Bet Lisa re-arranged perennial with feathery flower plumes (7)
19 Gardener in Essex holds bulbous plants related to amaryllis (7)
21 Sycamore's winged fruit (6)
22 A *Hydrangea paniculata* cultivar – famously clocked in London! (3,3)
23 Produces eg vegetable crops or gives up (6)
25 Plant containers worth lots of money? (4)

SOLUTIONS TO THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD WILL BE PRINTED NEXT MONTH

JUNE'S SOLUTIONS
ACROSS 1 Foliage **5** Massey **8** Kramer **9** Lathyrus **10** Bell **11** Odour **12** Eggs **14** Boughs **16** Marigold **18** Wisteria **21/30** Grease bands **22** Smut **24** Tango **25** Neat **27** Bletilla **29** Orange **31** Speckled.
DOWN 1 Force **2** Limelight **3** Air pots **4** Eelworm **5** Maturer **6** Style **7** Eau **13** Gills **15** Opium **17** Greenback **19** Rattles **20** Annuals **21** Globose **23** Titan **26** Algae **28** Lob.

Reader plant offer

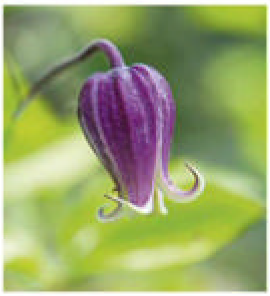
15% off Clematis with Thorncroft Clematis

Clematis make a wonderful addition to the garden and can bring colour from winter through to late summer. Their versatile growing habit sees clematis growing up trellis, in herbaceous borders, containers, or scrambling through trees. The large-flowered, early flowerers are perhaps the most familiar, but there's also a wonderful selection of smaller-flowered, late flowerers with their own charm. These are the subject of our plant profile on page 62.

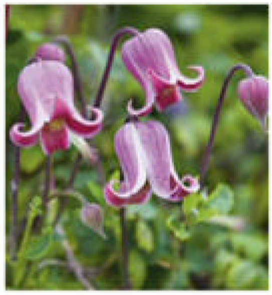
Reader offer

Award-winning clematis specialist Thorncroft is a family-run nursery offering a wide range of clematis including well-known cultivars, many of the new introductions from around the world, evergreen and herbaceous clematis as well as some of the less common species. It has a good selection of the late-flowering clematis mentioned in the plant profile.

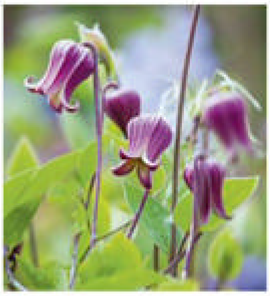
Gardens Illustrated readers can take advantage this month of a 15% discount on Thorncroft's mail-order shop (applicable when you order two or more plants). The offer is valid across all plants sold, but here's a reminder of some of the gorgeous clematis highlighted by Noël Kingsbury in his plant profile and offered by Thorncroft (subject to availability).



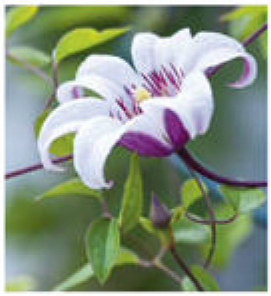
Clematis texensis
This rare North American species is grown from seed, so the colour and size of the flowers can vary slightly. Its nodding, urn-shaped flowers can be a deep purple, or a bright orangey-red, with cream lips, while others are scarlet with red inside. **Flowers** July – October. **Height** 1.2-1.8m.



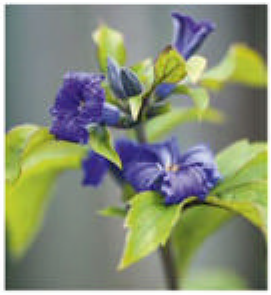
***Clematis* 'Sonnette'**
The dainty, urn-shaped flowers are an attractive, deep peachy-pink. The pointed sepals have peachy-cream margins and their tips recurve to reveal butter-yellow anthers.
Flowers July – October.
Height 90cm-1.2m.



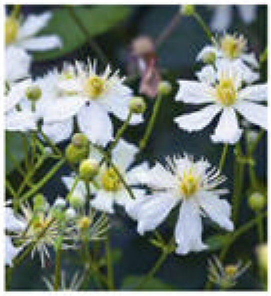
***Clematis* 'Buckland Beauty'**
The exotic-looking, purply-red, nodding, urn-shaped flowers, mature to a very deep mauve-pink. They have a delicate sheen and recurving tips to the thick, waxy sepals. This is an herbaceous cultivar, small enough to grow in a container.
Flowers June – September.
Height 1.8-2.7m.



***Clematis* Princess Kate (= 'Zoprika')**
Elegant, trumpet-shaped flowers flare open towards their tip. The outside of the flowers are a rich, purply-pink with white margins, tips and inside. A truly beautiful flower to grace your garden. Dies back to ground level in winter.
Flowers June – September.
Height 3-3.5m.



***Clematis tubulosa* 'Wyevale'**
The mid-blue, hyacinth-shaped flowers are borne in clusters and have a gorgeous perfume. This clump-forming (non-climbing) clematis has erect woody stems that don't need staking. It is happiest in free-draining soil.
Flowers July – October.
Height 90cm-1.2m.



***Clematis* 'Paul Farges'**
The clusters of dainty, creamy-white flowers have a very prominent crown of primrose-yellow stamens. A vigorous climber that produces an abundance of pretty flowers. Awarded an RHS Award of Garden Merit.
Flowers May – August, or June – September. **Height** 4.5m.

How to order

To see the complete collection of clematis offered by Thorncroft Clematis go to **thorncroftclematis.co.uk** and browse the shop. Discount will be applied at checkout stage. To gain your discount enter the code **Gardens15** when prompted. Alternatively, call **01953 850407** to place an order (please be aware that the telephone isn't always answered. If you leave an answerphone message, you will receive a call back).

RACHEL WARNE

All plants subject to availability. Offer excludes delivery. Delivery to most addresses in mainland England and Wales, and Lowland Scotland is £7.99 (2-5 plants), and £9.99 (6 or more plants). For other areas, including the EU, see thorncroftclematis.co.uk
Offer valid until 31 July 2015. Minimum order of two plants.

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED Shop

Over the past few months we've had great fun developing a range of products for our online shop. Among the first of these is a new range of stylish and practical suede and leather garden products, which have been made exclusively for us by Bradleys, a small, independent English tannery that's been handmaking leather goods for more than 20 years. We're also thrilled that the Dutch toolmaker Sneeboer has made three fabulous tools for us that we think will prove invaluable to gardeners.

Our shop website will be going live soon, but in the meantime you can order any of these items – along with our favourite baker's twine, a gorgeous tea towel and our Gardens Illustrated *umbrella – by calling the number right or filling out the order form below. We hope you'll love all of these products as much as we do.*

Juliet

1 Tea towel

This 100 per cent cotton tea towel features a bespoke illustration from Hannah McVicar, a regular contributor to *Gardens Illustrated*. Machine washable.
Shop price £10 (plus p&p)
Subscriber price £8 (plus p&p)

2 Baker's twine

This high-quality, biodegradable cotton twine comes in two sizes and three colourways: grey and white; brown and white; and burgundy.
Shop price £3.50 for 20m or £6.50 for 100m (plus p&p)
Subscriber price £3 for 20m or £6 for 100m (plus p&p)

3 Anti-bramble gauntlets

Tough, anti-bramble gauntlets made with soft leather, cotton-lined gloves and elbow-length, suede cuffs to protect against the toughest of pruning jobs. Available in one size.
Shop price £40 (plus p&p)
Subscriber price £35 (plus p&p)

Garden kneeler

Covered in suede and waxed cotton the kneeler helps protect your knees while weeding and planting.
Shop price £40 (plus p&p)
Subscriber price £35 (plus p&p)

Suede apron

This waist-fitting apron made by Bradleys in chocolate-brown suede features an adjustable belt and four pockets for tools, twine, notebook and even a mobile phone.
Shop price £60 (plus p&p)
Subscriber price £55 (plus p&p)

4 Hand scratcher

This garden scratcher is a great multi-weeder for use throughout the garden. It features an ash wood handle.
Shop price £50 (plus p&p)
Subscriber price £45 (plus p&p)

Maubach trowel

This trowel, designed by nurseryman Georg Arends in around 1920, has a wide, flat, tapered blade for digging the perfect planting hole. It has an ash wood handle.
Shop price £50 (plus p&p)
Subscriber price £45 (plus p&p)

Exaggerated handweeder

The offset blade of the handweeder gives greater manoeuvrability when weeding between established plants or confined spaces such as containers. Most often used as a hoe, but can also be useful to hook out and uproot weeds. Ash wood handle.
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Subscriber price £45 (plus p&p)

5 Umbrella (not shown)

With a slate-grey cotton cover and wooden handle, our umbrella will comfortably shelter two people on a rainy day.
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Subscriber price £30 (plus p&p)

ORDER FORM GI223 – PLEASE SEND ORDER AND PAYMENT to: *Gardens Illustrated* Shop, PO BOX 4445, Colchester CO2 8GD.

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Grey & white twine 20m	£3.50/£3		£1.50	
Grey & white twine 100m	£6.50/£6		£1.50	
Brown & white twine 20m	£3.50/£3		£1.50	
Brown & white twine 100m	£6.50/£6		£1.50	
Burgundy twine 20m	£3.50/£3		£1.50	
Burgundy twine 100m	£6.50/£6		£1.50	
Anti-bramble gauntlets	£40/£35		£2.50	
Garden kneeler	£40/£35		£2.50	
Suede apron	£60/£55		£2.50	
Hand scratcher	£50/£45		£3.50	
Maubach trowel	£50/£45		£3.50	
Exaggerated handweeder	£50/£45		£3.50	
Umbrella (not shown)	£35/£30		£5.00	
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†††If ordering multiple products, highest p&p applies

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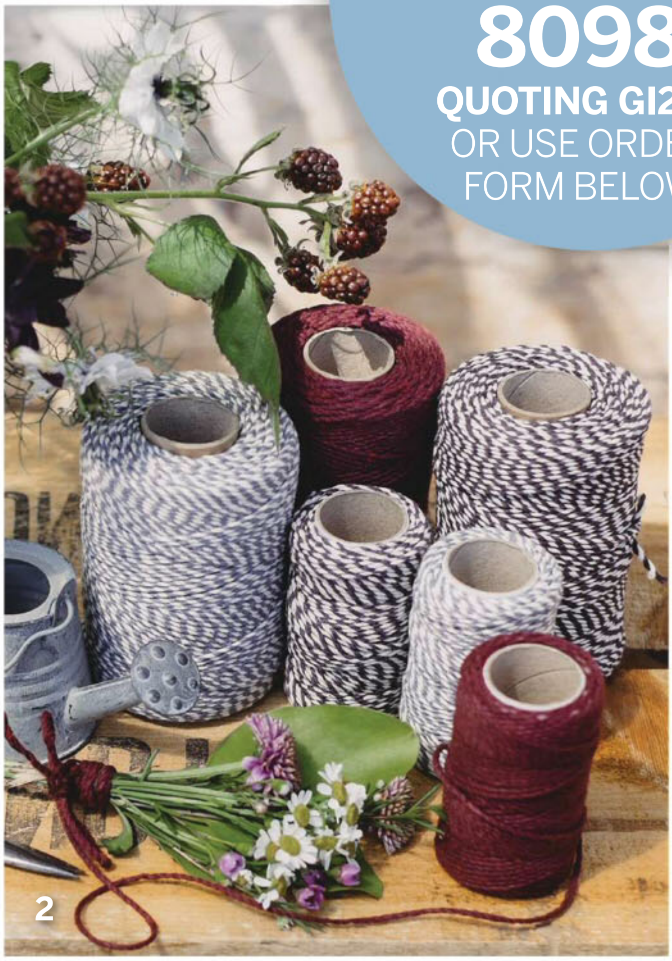
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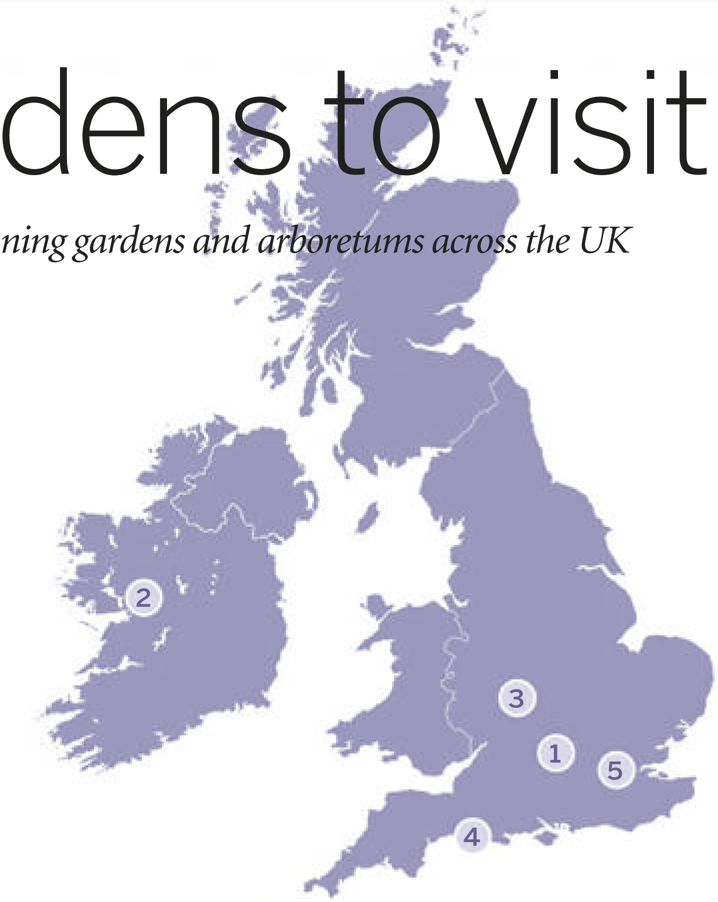
Summer gardens to visit

This summer, make time to visit this collection of stunning gardens and arboretums across the UK



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ADDRESS **Waterperry, Near Wheatley, Oxfordshire OX33 1JZ**
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WEB **waterperrygardens.co.uk**

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Enjoy the unique charm of Galway at Claregalway Castle's Garden Festival. The event offers garden enthusiasts the chance to meet experienced gardeners, buy quality tools and peruse the great range of garden plants on offer. Listen to guest presentations, browse specialist bookshops and enjoy the lively entertainment and freshly cooked food, available throughout the garden weekend.

ADDRESS **Claregalway Castle, Claregalway, Co. Galway, Ireland**
TEL **+353 (0)86 2020 999**
WEB **galwaygardenfestival.com**

3 STRATFORD-UPON-AVON HOME & GARDEN SHOW 17–19 JULY 2015

A feast for the senses, from artisan delights to the unusually beautiful; 200 handpicked exhibitors present an eclectic mix of 'must have' products for your home and garden. Lively cooking demonstrations, musical minstrels and a vintage tearoom, make this a memorable day out for all the family.

ADDRESS **The Recreation Ground, Swans Nest Lane, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 7LS**
TEL **01789 549199**
WEB **stratfordhomeandgardenshow.co.uk**

4 ABBOTSBURY SUBTROPICAL GARDENS

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ADDRESS **Bullers Way, Abbotsbury (nr Weymouth), Dorset DT3 4LA**
TEL **01305 871387**
WEB **abbotsburygardens.co.uk**

5 CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of Chelsea Physic Garden's Florilegium Society, an exhibition of paintings and drawings by some of today's finest botanical artists will be held at the garden in August. The Florilegium Society was formed in 1995 with the aim of recording the growing collection of plants in the garden through paintings and drawings. 4 – 26 August 2015, 11am – 4pm. Entrance to the exhibition is free with entry to the Garden.

TEL **020 7352 5646**
WEB **chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk/the-garden/florilegium-society/londons-secret-garden/**

Summer inspiration

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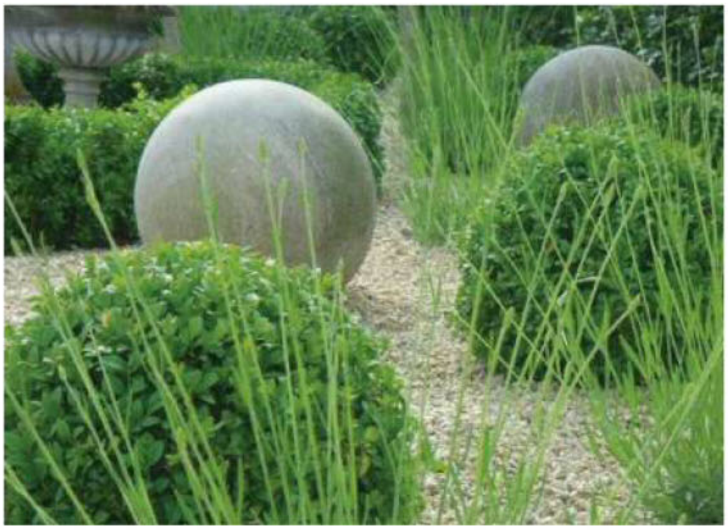

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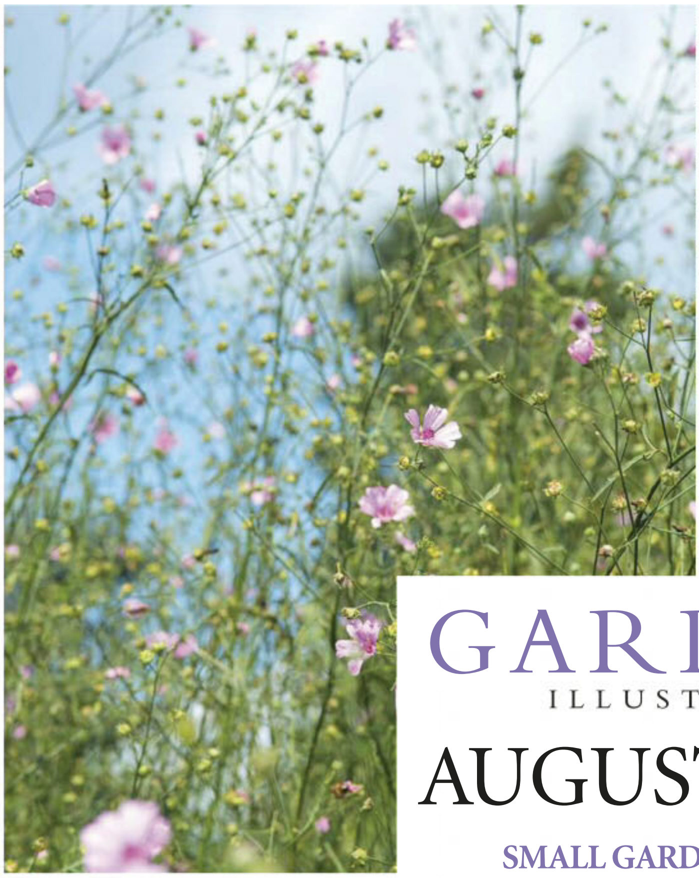


GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

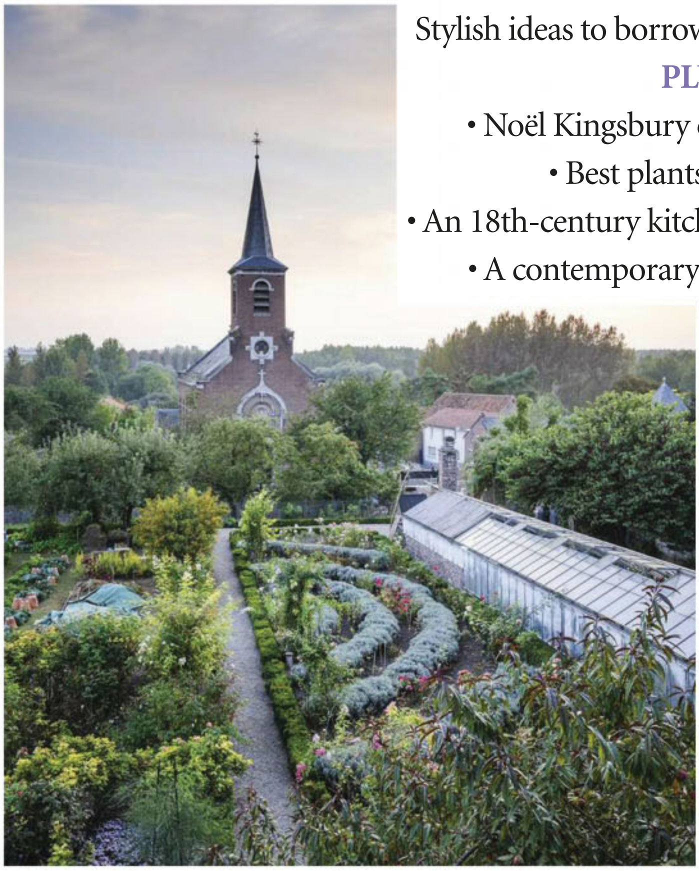
AUGUST ISSUE

SMALL GARDENS SPECIAL

Stylish ideas to borrow from five small plots

PLUS

- Noël Kingsbury on the hardy hebe
- Best plants for August
- An 18th-century kitchen garden in Belgium
- A contemporary garden in Ireland



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MAAYKE DE RIDDER, FORAS STUDIO, JOHN GLOVER / ALAMY, JASON INGRAM

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Feline matters

The garden calls to mind memories of Frank's old friend Hero

WORDS **FRANK RONAN** ILLUSTRATION **CELIA HART**

I had started to write about pelargoniums when Hero died, so pelargoniums will have to wait until August while we eulogise a cat. This garden was as much his as it is mine, and it is impossible, just at this moment, to talk about the garden and not talk about him. We came here together thirteen years ago. In the first months, while I spent my days cutting down conifers, he spent his nights fighting off feral toms to make the place his own. He was fearless but not territorial in the normal way: any intruder was welcome so long as they behaved themselves; bad manners were met with swift and painful correction. The fiercest dog soon learned its place.

> *He was possibly the most beautiful cat in existence, certainly in his own opinion. Half Maine Coon and as big as a whole one… with a dash of Persian*

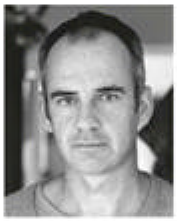
There are those who don't like cats and wouldn't have one. I was brought up to be such a person myself, yelling encouragement whenever my dog gave chase and shuddering with revulsion if I saw a cat inside a house. This prejudice was brought to an end when I was twenty three and shared a flat with an ancient Himalayan. After two weeks of being transfixed by her pale eyes the revulsion had been replaced with something else and I have not since considered a household to be complete without a cat somewhere in it.

Hero was born in Bermondsey and spent the first two years of his life with us at London Bridge. When we escaped to Worcestershire the freedom went to his head and he rushed up a tree, fell out of it and broke his leg. By the time, two years later, we found this garden he had learned to be a sensible country cat who knew what to kill and how. He was rarely quick enough for birds, but if a molehill appeared within the boundary there would be a dead mole lying on top of it two hours later. The crocuses were safe from mice and the compost free of rats. Squirrels abounded on the perimeter but were never seen inside it.

He was possibly the most beautiful cat in existence, certainly in his own opinion. Half Maine Coon and as big as a whole one; most of the other half was Shorthair with a dash of Persian. He was blue tabby with a white ruff kept scrupulously white. The mania for cleanliness was extended to the general and any dog, child or other cat who fell below his standards would be pinned down and washed. Sometimes, sitting in the bath, you would feel a rasping on your back and it would be Hero, balanced on the edge and taking care of the spot you couldn't reach.

He could be annoying when you wanted to weed and he wanted to be adored. I have had other cats who were better companions; who would lie quietly nearby while you worked the trowel. It was a source of astonishment to Hero if he was not the focus of all attention. Indifference was there to be conquered and anti-cat people, as often as not, would find themselves forced to make an exception of him.

For all that, in the way that you can having spent almost every day of seventeen years in each other's company, we saw through each other and understood each other. I couldn't take him to California because it would have been cruel to force him to spend his last days away from the garden and the common he had made his own, and the sunshine would have been poor compensation. So a nice friend agreed to stay in the house and keep him company, and when I last came home he seemed as well as ever. There was an apple tree called 'Irish Peach' that I had been keeping back to plant over him when he died and just the day that I was thinking it had outgrown the container and should go in anyway, he quietly went in his sleep, and the tree, in full blossom, was planted. ☐



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